Hafa Adai!

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Torres pushes $2M for PSS' teacher salaries. PAGE 3
Inaugural MIFF opens with lavish reception. PAGE 22

75¢

Saipan Tribune

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Mangloña, U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy, District Court of Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang lead the shoveling of soil at the groundbreaking for the U.S. Courthouse building in Gualo Rai yesterday morning. BILL BEZZANT

New courthouse breaks ground

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The ground was broken yesterday to mark the start of construction for a state-of-the-art U.S. Courthouse building in Gualo Rai.

In her remarks, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Mangloña said, "This special occasion is a significant milestone in our quest for a new federal courthouse."

The project is composed of a 53,000 square-foot, three-story

See COURTHOUSE on Page 4

Man dies while fishing in Garapan

- Kil Jun Min still missing
- Club 88 manager wanted for theft

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 52-year-old man who went fishing with four other men reportedly lost consciousness when he came ashore and died at a beach behind the TSL building in Garapan Wednesday night.

Stafford

As this developed, the search and rescue team failed again yesterday to locate Kil Jun Min, a 35-year-old Korean national who was hit by a wave and dragged into rough waters at the secluded Hidden Beach in Talafofo last Tuesday afternoon.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* last night that search and rescue operations will resume today, Friday, at 7am.

According to a separate U.S. Coast Guard statement yesterday, it said the U.S. Coast Guard

See MAN on Page 4

OPENING CEREMONY BEA CABRERA
From left, Imperial Pacific International Ltd. majority shareholder Margaret Cui Lijie, first lady Diann Torres, and Taiwanese actress Pace Wu attend the inaugural Marianas International Film Festival opening ceremony Wednesday night at the Aqua Resort Club. The festival will end with today's red carpet and awarding ceremony at the Imperial Pacific Resort and Hotel in Garapan.

See story and more photos on Page 22

INSIDE

LOCAL
Mount Carmel School elementary students join the global Hour of Code.

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LOCAL
Kevin's The Prime Rib and Seafood Restaurant opens.

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LOCAL
Hell of the Marianas gets international coverage.

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Local

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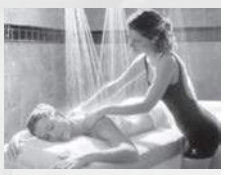
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Man'amko look forward to the holiday season

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The *man'amko* kicked off the holiday season with a bang, with the Matua Riders visiting the Office on Aging yesterday and giving gifts to the elderly.

According to Office on Aging executive director Walter Mangloña, it's always exciting to have the Matua Riders visit the center for their annual Christmas drop.

"Whenever the motorcycles come roaring in here, it brings a lot of excitement to our *man'amko*," said Mangloña.

He said there are currently 90 active senior citizens who are under the Office on Aging program and all 90 will be receiving gifts from the Matua Riders.

"Everyone received a gift and we still have leftovers that we're going to give out to the clients that were absent," he said.

The Man'amko Center has a whole bunch of activities on their calendar for the month of December. The *man'amko* will be visited by other agencies and organizations throughout the month as a way to make the *man'amko* feel special.

The *man'amko* will also be singing at multiple government agencies throughout December.

Also last Tuesday, the Rotary Club of Saipan hosted a late Thanksgiving lunch for the *man'amko*.

Mangloña said the *man'amko* were really happy because they were able to interact with the youth of Rotaract and Interact and share their stories with Rotary Club members.

"The Rotary Club is always thinking about our *man'amko*. …It makes our *man'amko* feel very special. I am truly grateful for their kind generosity and their support," said Mangloña.

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Torres pushes $2M for PSS' teacher salaries

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is recommending that $2 million from over $16.5 million in supplemental funding be appropriated to the Public School System to raise the salaries of teachers.

RELATED NEWS
PSS pushes for 'lawful share' of the budget

The recommendation, which came in a letter dated Nov. 29, 2017, indicated that a net of $16.5 million is available for appropriation after earmarks. In it, Torres recommends that $2 million be allocated to PSS.

The gross amount of over $38.5 million in revenue generated from the casino gross revenue tax was reduced due to Public Law 20-10, the law that sets aside $22 million from fiscal year 2017 CGRT to address obligations of the Commonwealth government to retiree compensations.

For fiscal year 2016, PSS received over $10 million in supplemental appropriations.

According to the enclosed summary that expounds on the recommendation, Torres indicated that the $2 million would be used to allow PSS to implement the new salary scale for its teachers, which sets it on par with the average salaries of teachers in North Dakota—the state with the lowest average salaries at $42,025 per annum, according to data from the National Educational Association.

"[The] proposal is to make funding available for the implementation of the new salary scale for teachers to make greater effort to reach more equitable ranges with the greater U.S.," Torres wrote.

The CNMI Board of Education recently approved the increased salary scale and, according to Torres who cited the BOE, a teacher must first have a Standard Certification with Endorsement, a bachelor's degree, Praxis I and II completion, and six to 10 years experience to reach the North Dakota salary range.

Citing constitutional concerns, members of PSS recommended that the House defer action on any appropriation bill to PSS because of a constitutional mandate that entitles PSS to 25 percent of "general funds."

Confusion surrounding the term "general funds" arose, whether to use the term "gross general funds" or "net general funds" in calculating the PSS budget.

According to a BOE member, the certified question would be filed this week to finally clarify the matter.

The House Committee on Ways and Means chaired by Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) is currently reviewing Torres' recommendations for the appropriation of the supplemental funding.

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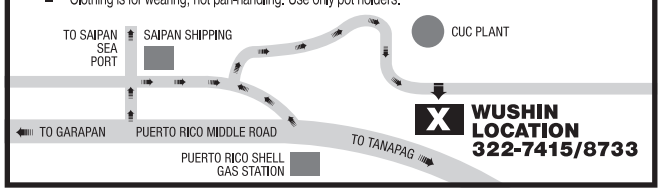

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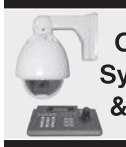
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A total of 84 students with their business leader partners gather together to culminate the 2017 Career Exploration Day by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort. BEA CABRERA

Chamber holds career exploration day

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

High school juniors and seniors from across the CNMI were paired with business executives for half a day yesterday to give them a firsthand experience on what it is like to be part of the CNMI workforce.

The program, called the 2017 Career Exploration Day, was created by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and gave students a glimpse of how professionals perform their jobs and responsibilities.

It was the first time for Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to participate in the program. Three students—Justine Rain Kirby and Juli Anne Loong from Kagman High School and Talia Trianni of Grace Christian Academy—were assigned to the Learning and Development and Licensing Department and were given small projects to work on.

"It has been so wonderful, especially since my interest is in business. I was able to learn more about marketing and all the qualifications within the business—what companies look for when they hire—and it has been so informational," Kirby said.

"I wish it was longer because there is so much to learn and I look forward to more activities like this," she added.

Ed Arriola of Let's Go Saipan, which offers tours to exciting trails and historical sites on Saipan, was paired with Arcen Obando Marianas High School and Joo Young Kim Grace Christian Academy, both seniors.

"We showed them how to interact with the customers. We are fortunate one of our students (Kim) speaks Korean that she was able to help our Korean customers this morning," he said.

Arriola said this program is also a learning experience for the business community.

"This is beneficial for both parties. I like them so much that I got their contact information and have them try each of our products so that they will be able to teach us how to market these products to their 'age group,'" he said.

"We love to keep our business growing. [We want] to know what their age group likes, what makes them tick and what makes them buy stuff. It's a learning experience for the students and us," he added,

SCC executive director Jill Arenovski said, "We encourage these students to seek employment on these islands to fill our needed vacancies and to keep in mind the Chamber Scholarship program that gives a minimum of $12,000 each year to deserving students."

The 2017 Career Exploration Day program started 8am and ended noon.

The other companies that participated were 360 Restaurant, AC Pacific-I Love Saipan, Bank of Guam, Bank-Pacific, Chelu Photos, CNMI Small Business Development Center, D&Q Saipan, Delta Management, T-Galleria, Docomo Pacific, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, First Hawaiian Bank, Gutterridge, Haskins, & Davey, Hyatt Regency Saipan, IT&E, Joeten Enterprises, Kanoa Resort, McDonald's Saipan, MP Holdings LLC, N15 Architects, Northern Marianas International School, No Ka Oi, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc., Paradise Dental Center, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Saipan Seventh Day Adventist School, *Saipan Tribune*, TanHoldings, and Xerox Corp.

Schools that participated are Grace Christian Academy, Kagman High School, Marianas High School, Mount Carmel High School, and Saipan Southern High School.

MAN

From Page 1

Sector Guam was notified by Saipan DPS at about 4:30pm Tuesday about the missing person.

"The individual was reported to be taking a photo along the Kingfisher Cliff Line in front of the breaking surf when he was hit by a wave and swept out," the Coast Guard report said.

The Coast Guard responded by sending a 110-foot patrol boat, the CGC *Washington*, and launching a U.S. Navy helicopter from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 to search with DPS Saipan.

Helping in the search is the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife and the privately-owned vessel *Super Emerald*.

In the Garapan beach incident, police said the victim, described as a local, was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room where he was pronounced dead by a physician Wednesday at 8:16pm.

Police said the victim and four other men had gone fishing and he had asked his friends after a few minutes to bring him to shore as he was having difficulty breathing. The victim reportedly lost consciousness and stopped breathing once when he came to shore.

Police placed the incident under further investigation. There was no report on the type of fishing the victim was doing.

DPS did not release more details about the incident yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Crime Stoppers Program is seeking the public's help for information on the whereabouts of the manager of Club 88, who is wanted for allegedly stealing a large amount of money.

DPS said Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo has issued an arrest warrant against 40-year-old Daniel Ryan Stafford for the charges of theft, with a bail amount of $50,000.

Police responded to the Club 88 mini casino at the Oceanview Hotel in Garapan, where a large amount of money had gone missing.

No other details were given.

COURTHOUSE

From Page 1

courthouse with a basement, and two adjoining commercial buildings.

The courthouse will include one courtroom, two judges' chambers, a jury assembly room and office space for building tenants.

U.S. General Services Administration awarded a 20-year lease to Marianas Management Corp. for the construction of the building. GSA said the lease will cost approximately $2.4 million annually.

MMC is a subsidiary of Joeten Enterprises Inc.

Mangloña said they were able to break ground on the project due to the persistent efforts of GSA and the entire federal family, including the U.S. Attorney's Office and the U.S. Marshal's Office.

Mangloña said she is confident that MMC will construct and complete the building that will make all of the people in the Commonwealth proud.

The judge recalled that when the District Court for the NMI opened in 1978, it was a poolside suite at the Saipan InterContinental Hotel, now the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Soon after, Mangloña said, during the tenure of Chief Judge Alfred Laureta, the district court took space at the Nauru Building (now the Marianas Business Plaza) in Susupe. At the time, she said, the Nauru Building was the newest and most modern office building on Saipan.

Mangloña said that, as Chief Judge Alex Munson recollected, upon his appointment in 1988, the courtroom at the Nauru Building was found inadequate and small. She said that, according to Munson, the courtroom featured a plywood bench for the judge and plywood seats for the public.

Munson then contacted GSA to visit the courthouse and assess the facility. Three representatives from the GSA's San Francisco office came to Saipan to determine what they could do to bring the court into compliance with federal standards.

During their visit, the air conditioning system for the entire Nauru Building was broken and had been for nearly two months, leaving very little ventilation in an already balmy climate.

After the three spent three or four uncomfortable days in the Nauru Building, they decided it was time for the court to change venue. They found the Horiguchi Building and negotiated to have the court moved there.

Mangloña said the Horiguchi Building had already started construction as a five-story condominium and that explains why the courtroom ended up on the ground floor, with large columns within the well.

Mangloña said the district court eventually moved into the new courthouse at the current location in Garapan in 1991, which was in every way much more comfortable and functional. "Finally, we had a courthouse that looked like a federal court," she said.

However, Mangloña said, only seven years later, in the wake of the Oklahoma City federal courthouse bombing, a federal assessment board determined that the current courthouse is at the least safe in the nation.

As a result, Mangloña said, GSA decided to build a new federal building on Saipan, which would include a post office on the ground floor, and the court and other federal agencies on the second and third floors.

After GSA personnel came to Saipan many times to look for building sites, they finally decided that only a federal courthouse would be constructed, with offices for the U.S. Marshals, U.S. Attorney, U.S. Probation, the Coast Guard, and the Department of the Interior.

Mangloña noted that the Ninth Circuit of Appeals and the Judicial Conference of the U.S. remained supportive of a new courthouse on Saipan, and made continued efforts to have GSA build one.

Mangloña also cited an incident in October 2010 when a cargo van crashed into the ground floor courtroom. That incident prodded everyone involved to prioritize this project and move quickly to find yet another home.

By the time Mangloña joined the federal bench in 2011, GSA had only strengthened its commitment to the Saipan courthouse project.

Mangloña said in the past several years, acting regional administrator Dan Brown and his team at GSA have maintained regular conference calls with herself and Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy to monitor the progress and address any setbacks along the way.

"We look forward to returning in a year and a half to attend another ceremony to cut the ribbon and open the new doors," said Mangloña.

GSA's Lupe Flores acknowledged MMS and its team for their partnership. "I look forward to our continued collaboration on this..project," Flores said.

MMC secretary/treasurer Norman T. Tenorio said the courthouse will be environmentally friendly, based on its sustainable, energy, and resource-efficient design.

Tenorio said they anticipate for construction to take about one and a half years, with the courthouse scheduled to be completed by the third quarter of 2019.

"This beautiful federal courthouse will be something that our local community can take a great amount of pride in," Tenorio said.

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog urged the contractor, Future World Corp. (Guam), to complete the project on time.

Bishop Ryan Jimenez of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa initiated a prayer and blessing at the site.

District Court of Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang attended the ceremony, along with CNMI justices and some judges, lawyers, lawmakers, Cabinet members, federal court employees, and MMC officers and Joeten family.

Alleged 'ice' supplier is arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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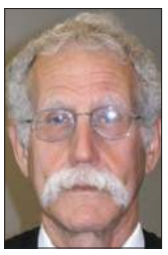
REPORTER

CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force agents arrested in Garapan a man suspected of being one of the main sources of methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

Kevin Aldan Yamagata was taken to the Superior Court on Wednesday for a bail hearing on charges of trafficking and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed a $100,000 cash bail on the 41-year-old Yamagata and set the preliminary hearing for Dec. 13.

Govendo said a private counsel will be appointed for Yamagata. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.


Govendo

A "cooperating source" of the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force disclosed that Yamagata actively distributes "ice" on Saipan. The "cooperating source" also alleged that Yamagata is one of the main sources of "ice" on the island.

The "source" was able to buy $150 worth of "ice" from Yamagata during a "buy-walk" operation at his house in Chalan Lau Lau last Sept. 11 and then $150 worth of "ice" during a second "buy-walk" operation in Chalan Kanoa last Sept. 13.

The task force arrested Yamagata last Oct. 3 but soon released him after he agreed to become a confidential informant.

His release was later revoked, resulting in his arrest Wednesday.

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Suspected 'ice' trafficker arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who was arrested in May 2015 for alleged possession of methamphetamine or "ice" was apprehended again last Saturday in Dandan, this time for alleged "ice" trafficking.

CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force officers served an arrest warrant on Ignacio Deleon Guerrero Demapan, also known as Ike, for trafficking and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed a $100,000 bail on Demapan; preliminary hearing is on Dec. 11. Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed counsel for Demapan.

The CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force investigated Demapan last Nov. 16 after receiving information that he is selling "ice" inside his car. That same day, a cooperating source managed to buy $180 worth of "ice" from Demapan in the parking lot of a barbecue stand in As Lito. The cooperating source again bought $40 worth of "ice" from Demapan in the parking lot of a store in Chalan Kanoa last Nov. 28.

In May 2015, police arrested Demapan after he was allegedly found in possession of "ice" in his car in Chalan Kanoa.

The Office of the Public Defender, counsel for Demapan, questioned the legality of the warrantless search of the defendant's car. There was no available information whether the case is still pending or not in court.

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PSS pushes for 'lawful share' of the budget

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Board of Education member Herman T. Guerrero insists that the Public School System's share in the fiscal year 2018 casino gross revenue tax isn't enough, based on the CNMI Constitution.

He said that its recommended share of $2 million is not final and is very far from its expected $15 million.

"I remember during the budget process, even before the fiscal year began, they [lawmakers] kept mentioning that they will give PSS an additional $15 million," he said. "Now even if the House goes with a different figure, then we are going to look at the Senate helping us. They are more receptive to us than the House in terms of our budget needs."

In an emergency Senate session last September, Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) pointed out that the CNMI Constitution mandates a budget for PSS that is 25 percent "of what is considered the general fund." With general fund revenues estimated at $46 million, 25 percent is $11 million.

Mangloña also believes PSS should receive 25 percent of the CGRT. He said this year's CGRT is estimated at about $58 million and that PSS should receive $14.5 million, a quarter of the total amount.

Guerrero said the PSS board is exhausting all available remedies in order to get what PSS is entitled to.

"PSS board chair Marylou Ada is going to write to the governor. Nobody is jumping or excited to help us in this issue but we definitely need to resolve this once and for all," he said.

"Based his recommendations in the past, perhaps the governor needs to seriously consider this and if he takes the opposing side, we can take it to the Supreme Court," he added.

Guerrero said that PSS' plan to file a certified question with the Supreme Court is still underway.

PSS has been working to bring before the Supreme Court the principal question of "what are the general revenues of the Commonwealth?"

"If the governor still refuses to recognize the law and budget for PSS, we have other remedies. One is to sue him and in that lawsuit we can insert the certified question," he added.

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Hocog wants to build on Japanese ties

By KIMBERLLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Japanese ties to the Commonwealth run so deep that there is even Japanese blood that runs in the veins of many of Northern Marianas descent, according to Japan Consul to the Commonwealth Kinji Shinoda.

During the consulate's birthday reception for Emperor Akihito at Grandvrio Saipan on Tuesday, Shinoda said the most impressive fact is that there are many of Japanese descent in the CNMI and he has met some young CNMI people who have told him that their grandparents or great-grandparents were Japanese.

Shinoda said that NMDs with Japanese blood is Saipan and Japan's greatest asset in further strengthening their ties.

"They inherit the blood of both Japan and the CNMI. These Japanese descent surely makes Japan and CNMI a family forever," he said.

According to Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, that bond is vital and, to preserve it, his office is working to create an organization for NMDs with Japanese heritage to ensure that they will be recognized in the Commonwealth community.

"I want our people to recognize that there is a community of locals with Japanese ancestry," he said.

Hocog is working on this project to bring intermarried Japanese and Chamorro families together to create their very own organization so they can be recognized because Hocog believes they can also play an important role in bringing Japanese tourists back to the island.

This will also help these individuals pass their knowledge of their Japanese and local heritage to future descendants.

"We're going to make the Japanese descendants here play the important role of promoting their ancestors as part of our integrated culture," said Hocog.

Hocog said he wants to get that organization chartered.

"Maybe this group can tie us to the Japanese because they have heritage that they need to keep strong," he said.

Hocog's staff is working on getting an estimate of how many Japanese Chamorro intermarried families currently live in the Commonwealth.

As of now, there are 735 Japanese individuals living on Saipan, with the exclusion of those who have married into the community.

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Water service interruption on Saipan

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Dec. 12 and 13, from 8am to 5pm in several areas on Saipan to repair a leak in a 6-inch transmission line.

The water outage will affect Koblerville, San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, San Jose, Oleai, Chalan Piao, As Lito, and Fina Sisu areas. Customers in these areas should expect restoration of services soon thereafter.

Repairs will be located on the corner of Guangdong Hardware in As Lito. Due to the closure of the southbound lane and for the safety of Commonwealth Utilities Corp. men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling by the area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilities-Corporation/). ***(PR)***

Power interruption in San Antonio on Saturday

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017, from 5:30am to 10:30am to allow line crew of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to safely replace three wooden power poles with concrete poles along Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan in San Antonio.

This is part of an ongoing hazard mitigation project of the Federal Emergency Management Agency that involves replacing 787 wooden poles with concrete poles.

A total of 483 wooden poles have already been replaced, leaving 304 that still needs to be replaced.

Areas to be affected include Kiya 2 (2nd Partial) affecting Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan in San Antonio (Lililok Pl., Alu Dr., and Bua Ln.) and Afetna Road. No water well will be affected but the A-3 wastewater lift station will be affected.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilities-Corporation/). ***(CUC)***

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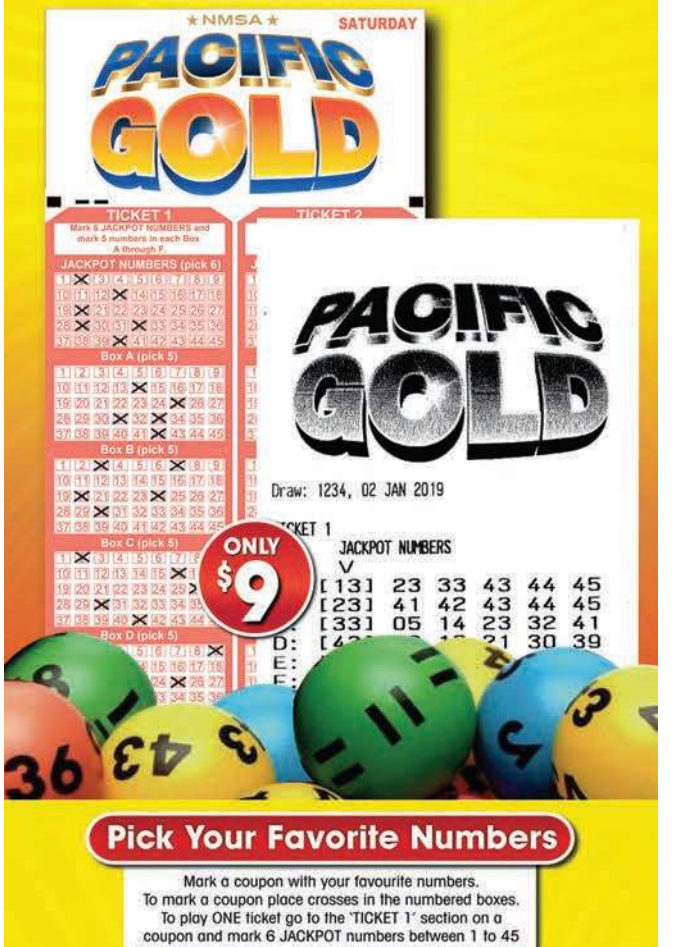

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EDITORIAL

By MARKOS KOUNALAKIS
Special to McClatchy

Markos Kounalakis, Ph.D. is a senior fellow at Central European University and visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution. Contact him at markos@stanford.edu or on Twitter @KounalakisM.

America's sad history of looking the other way on child rape

Child sexual assault is the most repulsive of crimes, and the global verdict on rapists and molesters should be overwhelmingly damning. But if you're surprised that the president of the United States and the Republican National Committee are throwing their support to a man who has been accused by multiple women, on the record, of pedophilia, remember that America has been looking the other way for a long time.

Why, for example, is the Pentagon suppressing a congressionally mandated independent report on Afghan allies who allegedly engage in systemic child sexual abuse?

Afghanistan has revived an old and long-outlawed practice of men buying young boys, dressing them as dancing girls to be used as sex slaves for American-armed Afghan security forces. The boys are regularly raped by these American allies, engaging in "bacha bazi," or "boy play," while U.S. soldiers avert their eyes and try to ignore the raw violence against underage innocents.

A recent analysis suggests that the U.S. military is preventing the report's release to avoid in-country blowback and consequential congressional action that could cut-off U.S. military assistance to Afghanistan.

While the Kabul regime may be the most egregious offender at passively condoning pedophilia, another open secret is that child sex tourism finds a home firmly within allied Southeast Asian nations. American citizens often travel to countries like Thailand to solicit sexual favor with children. Weak police enforcement and even official complicity in some Southeast Asian countries make combating child sex offenses extremely difficult.

Tactical advantage and strategic concerns often define how America deals with child sex issues both at home and abroad. Whether it's President Donald Trump's support for Republican Roy Moore in the Alabama Senate race, the U.S. troops' failure to report allies' involvement in human rights abuses and criminality, or a brisk sex tourism business with allies in strategic parts of the world, legal and ethical actions are often overruled by politics. Globally, moral outrage over sexual misconduct with minors is selectively

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MIKE SMITH
Las Vegas Sun

The Dancing Wu Li Masters

I'm re-reading a book that was popular when I was in college. It's *The Dancing Wu Li Masters: An Overview of the New Physics.* Written by Gary Zukav and first published in 1979, it is still widely available. The edition I just bought, published by HarperOne, is 375 pages and lists for $15.99 in paperback.

I'm still early in my re-read of *The Dancing Wu Li Masters*. I wanted to mention it sooner than later, though, because it would make a good holiday gift for those of scientific or philosophical mind. As a crossroads between East and West, Saipan is a particularly suitable place for this book's outlook.

The outlook can be neatly summarized in 10 words. Addressing the weird way that subatomic particles behave, it says: "The new physics sounds very much like old Eastern mysticism."

One line of thought here, and in many other works that address this topic, is that we are not separate from the world that we observe. We're very much a part of it. Our very act of observation is what crystallizes the difference between the realm of mere possibility and the realm of actualized reality. What strikes us as a straightforward world of cause-and-effect is really a dynamic net of interrelated relationships and probabilities. Unable to see, or even conceptualize, the actual workings of this net, we're pretty much reduced to noting what goes into a situation, noting what's coming out of it, and then reckoning how these elements seem to be correlated.

It is a humbling notion.

And if we think that we're objective observers, well, that might just be an illusion. "The point of view that we can be without a point of view is a point of view," writes Zukav. Here, his pen hits the juncture of the objective and the subjective, a longstanding bone of contention among the philosophical set.

The Dancing Wu Li Masters hit the stands about five years after the philosophical blockbuster *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* did. The author of the latter work, Robert Pirsig, passed away earlier this year. I make a point of mentioning the book from time to time since it is a good fit for the CNMI's professional class.

After all, many CNMI professionals have a wider scope of thinking than you're likely to encounter in the broader corporate world. Pirsig, aware of the tunnel vision that is getting ever-tighter in the modern age of specialization and technology, extolled the merits of "lateral" thinking, an outlook that can heed both the objective and the subjective in its sweep.

That was a dramatic notion in 1974. It's probably even more dramatic these days, which stand decades away from the free-wheeling tone of the '70s. But, be it now or then, the difference recedes into a mere blip by comparison when we realize that the Chinese sages entertained that notion 2,500 years ago.

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

As for *The Dancing Wu Li Master*s, "wu li" means "physics" in Chinese. The book expounds on this, but I'll offer my beach chair translation as "thing texture" or "thing logic." Either way is good enough for me. True, my Chinese lacks nuance. But, then again, so does my English. I therefore don't feel any sense of loss when making the switch.

Many famous names are mentioned in *The Dancing Wu Li Masters*. It won't surprise you that scientists such as Einstein, Bohr, and Planck are mentioned, along with predecessors such as Galileo, Newton, and Descartes.

Some other names are also mentioned. One is the philosopher Alan Watts, an Englishman who eventually settled in California. Watts was probably the foremost guide to Eastern thought for Western audiences. He was also an ordained Episcopal minster. His books are still very much present in retail bookshelves.

Another name that's mentioned is Carl Jung, the Swiss psychiatrist who kept company with Freud and Einstein. Jung was an interesting guy. When it came to lateral thinking he was certainly no stranger to the concept. I find that merely following his train of thought can be an adventure, even when I'm too obtuse to understand the destination.

Having all these people, and others, of course, in the book adds a lot of depth to the various scientific issues it covers. After all, science is a human endeavor, so it says just as much about people as it does about things.

The Dancing Wu Li Masters is extremely well-written. It manages to distill the arcane world of modern physics into everyday language without getting trite or bubble-gum about things. The book isn't just informative, it also speaks in a likeable and comfortable tone. I don't know if I'll follow up with a more comprehensive review of it, but, for now, it's enough that you're aware of the book in case you want to tell Santa about it.

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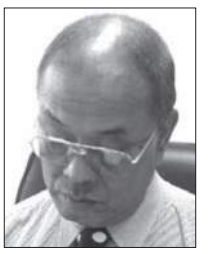
Troubling tidings



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

One of the components of news is the "unusual" or "prominence." The last two weeks has been extraordinarily unusual relating to prominent sex scandals across the country.

It included members of the U.S. Congress, Hollywood moguls, stars, and famous newspaper and television journalists. Some of the more reputable ones were fired recently when women started singing discordant Christmas songs. Would you believe some members have used taxpayers' money to pay for settlements of their indiscretions? Crazy, huh?

But then promiscuity isn't anything new on the islands. But painful and costly divorce has taught the guys to sing *Love Me Tender* even in court.

Scandal: The avalanche of sexual scandal sweeping Hollywood and Washington has quickly evolved into a prominent item on the national agenda. Most have said something about it, though none has really addressed the culprit in what's known as male libido.

Bill Clinton and the late Ted Kennedy are nationally famous as sexual predators. Most recently, Matt Lauer's "Morning Show" at NBC turned instantly to "mourning" show when his firing was announced.

Geraldo Rivera asserted that news work is a "flirty" business. Maybe. But the male attitude of control must be addressed and domesticated. If I may reiterate, male libido needs to be conditioned so it stays inside denim covers at all times.

Beyond: The denial of local immigration since 2008 basically severs the ability of the NMI to work with both hands dealing with growth and development. The use of CW-1 workers is slated to end in 2019. It would significantly sink the single-engine tourism economy in ways that would force support industries out of business too.

We've litigated the issue but were unsuccessful in that the court thought the NMI misunderstood the sovereign rights of the feds on immigration control. The U.S. agreed to it and thus was its inclusion in the Agreement from the outset.

Sad that as the local economy rebounds however slowly, there's this serious threat that could render persistent bankruptcy of the local government. It's an issue, however, that requires communications with appropriate congressional committees who need to be informed how dire the impending imposition would be on the local economy.

If the NMI needs the assistance of professional firms to convey this message then by all means all must join hands so it's done forthwith. The ability to move out of the impending fiscal rot is to ensure there are sufficient foreign workers who could fill these jobs. A realistic time frame may be in order to address and resolve this issue once and for all. It's all a matter of inclusive discussion so the left hand knows what the right hand is doing. This is a must hence.

Abuse: Mike Huckabee, former governor of Arkansas, host and commentator at Fox News, wrote a scathing piece on Lois Lerner who ran the IRS under the Obama administration:

"Lerner and her co-conspirators ran a division of a criminal enterprise known as the IRS. They used their public positions to bully, harass, intimidate, criminalize and bankrupt innocent citizens who held political views that the government should be censored.

"When a powerful arm of the federal government uses its almost unlimited power and budget to target an enemy and shut down that citizen's First Amendment right of free speech or freedom of religion or association, it IS censorship, but it's much more. It's jack-booted bureaucrats run amok and it's an abuse of power far more frightening than anything Richard Nixon ever did or was accused of.

"Lois Lerner and Associates joked about the stonewalling of IRS applications from groups they hated, then clammed up and claimed the Fifth Amendment before Congress, which had every right to demand an explanation of why government goons figuratively 'broke the legs' of groups who were conservative, Christian, pro-life, pro-marriage or pro-Israel. The recent settlement of $3.5 million in a class-action suit filed by tea party groups due to the IRS' bullying activities wasn't paid out of Lois Lerner's ample retirement fund that the taxpayers provide. You paid it. I paid it. And I'm seething over it!"

She now insists that her emails be sealed for fear of her life. Excuse me, what about the lives you ruined while head of the IRS? This case merits investigation and prosecution to the hilt! It should be exposed so taxpayers know the extent how abuse of power could ruin livelihood in the most egregious ways.

Asunto-ta: Gi hinalum ha`anen gupot hu kechage sumuhaye mangai atburotu siha na asuntu pot para bai pas yan kontentu siñienteghu lokue` na Noche Buena.

Lau bastara ke che`chu tautau sige ha` manlukau gi menahu sinparat. Mensahen na guaha mas fondu masoda` debi umakonsidera manu `nai para umapega ennau na salape`. I hospitat yan sisteman edukasion manesessita mauleg na kantida pot para u chogue obligasion niha.

Debi u sattun disposision fondun publiku. Muñga machansa maletke haf` ha nesessita i CHC. Solu hospitat-ta mina` debi in` asegura na mana`e suffisiente fondu. I sisteman edukasion lokue` mauleg umana`e ni nesessidatña. Mas ke 10-mit na famaguonta numesessita kabales na ayudu gi edukasion niha gi eskuelan publiku siha.

Hu komprende chinatsagan familia ni gumagana sueddun popble taimanu pinegan i federat. Makat na tiru piot pa`gu gi ha`anen gupot siha. Guaha kase mamamaila` alibiu maseha dididi`. Tali`e fan i tropan mansabiun I Deni` kau umamueba kalulot niha guine na asuntu. Hombre, manparehu hit tautau. Ti in` gagagau 80 pot sientu lau maseha dididi`.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Still no changes to the MTMM

Dear people of the Marianas: I have promised to keep you informed about the Marianas Trench Marine Monument and here is the latest concerning President Trump's monuments review.

Back in April, President Trump ordered Interior Secretary Zinke to review 27 large monuments declared by American presidents the last 20 years, including the Mariana Trench Monument. During the review, more than 2 million comments were received from across the country. Of that number, 99.9 percent were in support of maintaining protections. The final recommendations of that report were just made public.

The Secretary has ignored the vast majority of indigenous people, businesses, and conservationists that support protections and recommended shrinking four monuments and amending 10, including two monuments that were shrunk in Utah on Monday. This is a bit scary as it sets a precedent for how the United States manages its public lands and waters. An attack on one monument is an attack on all monuments. Native American groups are particularly upset and already five lawsuits have been filed against this decision. If these decisions are allowed to stand, future presidents will be able to shrink and grow monuments and the future of conservation could be very chaotic.

However, none of this will affect us in the Marianas immediately, because Secretary Zinke has not recommended any changes to the Mariana Trench Monument. This is because of the incredible amount of public outreach that was undertaken ahead of the declaration in 2009 and because of the high level of support for ocean and cultural protections we maintain on our islands.

This is not to say that there has not been frustration with the monument. The management plan was due in 2011 and is nearly seven years overdue. And we continue to believe that NOAA Sanctuary programs would best serve the people of the Marianas, particularly with their educational focus and the visitors center.

Now that the review is over, this is an excellent opportunity for us to hold the federal agencies accountable to seeing the management plan published for public review and comment. We should also keep pressing for approval of the sanctuary process.

Ignacio V. "Ike" Cabrera
I Agag, Saipan

AMERICA'S

From Page 14

expressed—whether in America's malls, Kandahar parlors, or Japanese townships. Political fortune is constantly weighed against criminal behavior in a dark and often cynical calculus.

There should, however, be no equivocation, anywhere, ever. Ivanka Trump is right when she says "there's a special place in hell for people who prey on children."

A couple of American soldiers personally brought that hell to offending Afghans. Two soldiers were discharged for beating-up an Afghan commander who chained a boy to his bed and repeatedly raped him. Vigilante justice is not a solution, but these soldiers' anger drove them to take matters into their own hands when their superiors instead insisted they sit on their hands.

The U.S. military may be reluctant to release the new report and slow to respond to accusations and missteps, but unlike most other countries' militaries, processes are in place for the Pentagon to take corrective action, change, and attempt to right any wrongs. While U.S. soldiers avoid policing illegal behavior of natives in foreign countries, Americans are sometimes held criminally accountable for their acts by foreign courts.

In 1995, for example, the American service members were caught, convicted, and sentenced to many years in a Japanese prison for kidnapping and raping a 12-year old Okinawan girl. Twenty-two years later, the Okinawa rape case is still fresh in Japanese minds and it continues to plague U.S.-Japanese military relations. Those old wounds were reopened just last week when an American military contractor received a life sentence in Japan for the rape and murder of yet another Okinawan.

Japanese high moral ground is hard to hold, however, when reflecting on the country's own sordid history of sex slaves and industrial-scale rape. From 1932 through WWII, Japan enslaved underage girls and young women from occupied territories in military brothels for forced sex. While there is no definitive victim count, the "comfort women" numbered at least 20,000 and may have reached into the hundreds of thousands.

The military and foreign service get special protections when serving overseas—diplomatic immunity can protect a State Department employee from foreign legal infractions. But the U.S. can waive that immunity in special cases, as it did with the American service members in Japan. Foreign courts can also lock-up Americans' who transgress overseas. Further, since 2004, American law allows U.S. courts to convict citizens of sex crimes committed abroad.

American child sex offenders who go overseas to engage in criminal activity can be punished when they come home, but they are also more likely to be prevented from achieving their goal when traveling. The U.S State Department will soon make important changes in U.S. passports, as required by last year's International Megan's Law. Some passports will have a notation that states "The bearer was convicted of a sex offense against a minor."

The scarlet letter passport may slow sex offenders from moving freely across the world, but it would still not prevent them from running for government office. One Alabama felon put up a candidacy in the recent past.

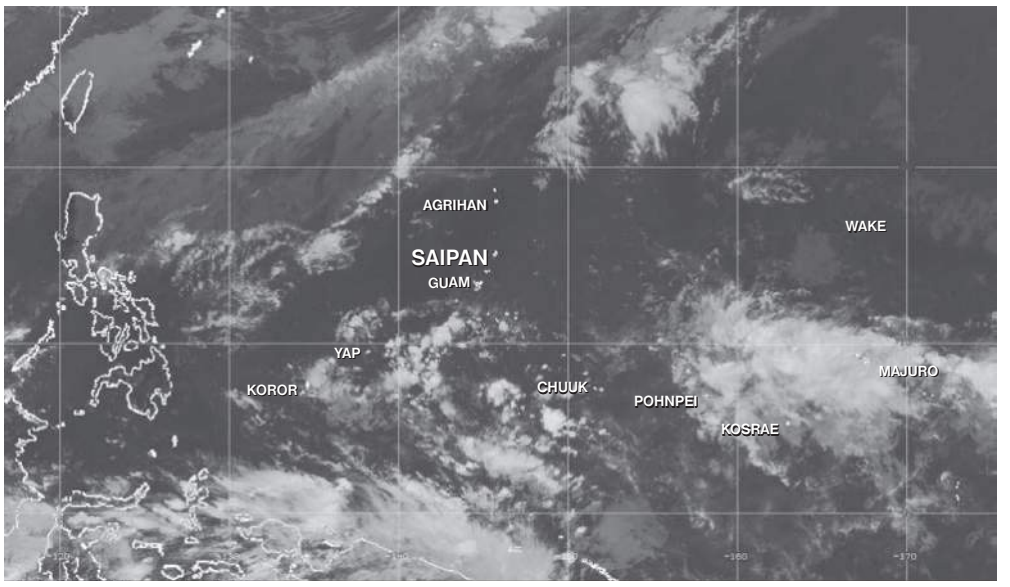
The electoral verdict on Roy Moore is days away. Internationally, beyond the Moore scandal, American conduct and honor in the Trump-era will continue to be judged daily.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:00 AM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A fairly dry pattern will continue through Friday afternoon. A near-equatorial trough stretches eastward from near 5N130E to a weak disturbance centered south of Chuuk near 2N151E. The disturbance is expected to move toward the northwest, passing near Yap over the weekend. As the system passes to the south of Guam, increasing moisture and instability will bring a risk of thunderstorms to the islands Friday night, with scattered showers expected over the weekend. An unsettled pattern will then remain over the region through the next week as the disturbance drags the near-equatorial trough northward as it moves toward the Philippines.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°
Beijing	Sunny	46° / 27°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	68° / 59°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 70°
London	Partly Cloudy	39° / 32°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	77° / 50°
Manila	Rain	88° / 75°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 54°
Miami	Thunderstorms	80° / 65°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	43° / 36°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	48° / 39°
Paris	Showers	41° / 28°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	50° / 43°
Rome	Rain	59° / 46°
Salem	Showers	41° / 28°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	60° / 45°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	39° / 34°
Tokyo	Sunny	48° / 34°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	43° / 33°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:03 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.46
12:13 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.03
6:04 PM	LOW TIDE	1.11
10:33 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.73

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:31 AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Monday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Tuesday	6:33 AM	5:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:43 am	10:37 pm
Saturday	-	11:33 am	11:34 pm
Sunday	-	12:19 am	-
Monday	12:28 am	1:01 pm	-
Tuesday	1:20 am	1:42 pm	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)

XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN

XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express, XP XTRA Airways; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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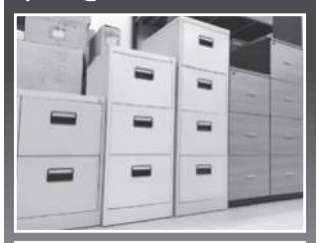

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

INSTALLATION OF MARINE FENDERS
PORT OF SAIPAN
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-007-18

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to supply and install marine fenders at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50, Procurement Rules and Regulations of Title 40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIAC"). Title 40, including Chapter 40-50-225, Request for proposals, of the NMIAC is applicable to the process followed by this RFP.

The proposal package containing the Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning November 30, 2017, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrivals Building, Saipan International Airport no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, December 22, 2017. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal (bid) bond issued by a U.S. Treasury Listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARFF BUILDING RENOVATIONS
Project No. CPA-TA-003-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for the Tinian International Airport ARFF Building Renovations Project, No. CPA-TA-003-16, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Scope of Work (SOW) includes overall construction management services for the duration of the project. Details are available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for qualification (RFQ) statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager, in writing via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, via fax to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, December 1, 2017, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall CM experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – 30 points;
2. CM experience related to airport related project requirements funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); – 30 points;
3. Level of proficiency in performing CM services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA regulations and requirements and AIP grants – 15 points;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience, firm's ability to perform the services and the firm's professional integrity and competence – 15 points; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable – 10 points.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified construction management firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

All consultants shall comply with all applicable FAA requirements under this federally funded project.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: November 15, 2017

VoteVets PAC endorses Kilili

Sablan

VoteVets PAC, the largest progressive group of veterans in America, endorsed the re-election bid of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) yesterday.

"Congressman Sablan is a true champion of veterans, and we're proud to endorse him for re-election," said Jon Soltz, Iraq war veteran, and chairman of VoteVets PAC. "It's crucial right now that we have Congressman Sablan's continued presence in Congress to combat the growing attempts to privatize veterans health care. He's been a great representative for the Northern Marianas, and an excellent champion for us veterans."

In a separate statement, Sablan thanked the 500,000 veterans, their families and friends represented by VoteVets for their endorsement.

"Supporting our veterans and the men and women actively serving in the military has been a focus of my fifth term in office, now that I am on the House Veterans Affairs Committee," said Sablan. "I look forward to continue to serve those who serve our nation in every way I can in the years ahead."

Sablan is seeking re-election in the November 2018 polls.

Among his goals are a Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outreach clinic with full-time staff to provide medical care in the Marianas, improved mental health services for veterans, and an increased VA presence to help Marianas veterans access all the benefits they have earned.

In the VoteVets PAC statement yesterday, it said that, according to his biography, Sablan gained citizenship with an Executive Order of President Ronald Reagan on Nov 4, 1986, "like so many others in the Northern Marianas." Yet even before becoming a citizen, Sablan had enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves. He completed basic and infantry training, 11B10, at Fort Benning, GA, on March 27, 1982, as an E-3 and was promoted to specialist on Sept. 18, 1982.

Initially assigned to Charlie Company, 100th/442 Infantry, Sablan joined Echo Company, 100th/442nd Infantry, when that unit was established in the Northern Marianas. To maintain his Reserve status, he trained at Schofield (Oahu), Pohakalua (Hawaii), and Kahuku (Oahu) Training Ranges. Sablan received his honorable discharge from Army Reserves duty on Nov. 29, 1987.

In Congress, Sablan is a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. In 2017, he obtained a waiver from the usual two-committee rule to serve on Veterans Affairs in response to the need to improve services to veterans living in the Marianas.

Founded in 2006, the mission of VoteVets.org Political Action Committee is to elect veterans to public office, with a focus on Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, and hold public officials accountable for their words and actions that impact America's 21st century troops and veterans. Though VoteVets.org PAC is non-partisan, candidates it backs must support VoteVets.org's core mission and beliefs. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Flags lowered to half-staff in memory of those killed in Pearl Harbor attack

Hocog

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog directed all CNMI government agencies yesterday to lower the CNMI flag to half-staff the whole day yesterday to reflect a similar federal order to commemorate those who died in the attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941.

President Donald J. Trump had ordered that the U.S. flag be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the federal government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its territories and possessions until sunset, as a mark of respect for the American patriots who died as a result of their service at Pearl Harbor.

Trump also directed that the U.S. flag be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations. ***(PR)***

THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN IS SEARCHING

for remains of the Japanese fallen during WWII

Today, the surviving families of the Japanese who died overseas during war are hopeful the remains of their loved ones will one day return home.

Approximately 70,000 Japanese servicemen and civilians lost their lives in the Northern Marianas Islands during World War II. According to the studies obtained by the Government of Japan, the remains of about 31,350 have yet to be repatriated.

Island	Died during War	Repatriated	Unfound
Saipan	55,300	29,160	26,140
Tinian	15,500	10,290	5,210

Caution: It is unlawful for any person to excavate, dig or look for the remains of a human body without a permit obtained by the CNMI government

If you have any suspicion of remains on your property, please contact the Japan Associate for Recovery and Repatriation of War Casualties (JARRWC). An association designated and guided by the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare to implement the recovery and repatriation of military personnel and civilian remains.

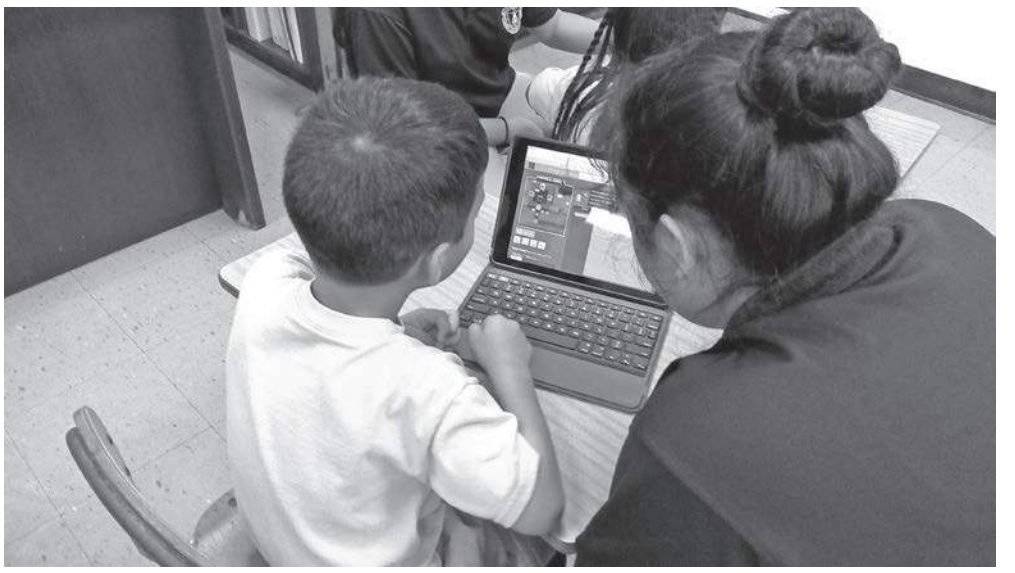
[JARRWC in Saipan]
Tel: (670) 285-7283
email: jarrwc.saipan@gmail.com
PO BOX 506369 CK, Saipan MP96950

[JARRWC in Tinian]
Tel:(670) 287-2857
email: jarrwc.tinian@gmail.com
PO BOX 520740 Tinian MP96952

[JARRWC Main]
Tel: (81-3)3581-2755 Fax: (81-3)6206-1880
email: jigyoub@jarrwc.jp

JARRWC

Mount Carmel School elementary students participate in the global Hour of Code, guided by students enrolled in the school's Advance Placement Computer Science Principles. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Mount Carmel School elementary students participated in the global Hour of Code, guided by students enrolled in the school's Advance Placement Computer Science Principles. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
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E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-18
SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 08, 2018 TIME: 2:00 P.M.
"LEASE AND IMPROVEMENT OF ECHO DOCK"
PORT OF SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING NOVEMBER 22, 2017.

PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND THREE (3) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: **CONFIDENTIAL "LEASE AND IMPROVEMENT OF ECHO DOCK (RFP-001-18)"**. PROPOSERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS PROPOSAL. ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED AT THE CPA ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR OF THE ARRIVAL TERMINAL BY JANUARY 08, 2018 AT 2:00 P.M..

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

/s/ **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO** DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2017
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BID
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT/
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-002-18

MAINTENANCE DEPT OFFICE RENOVATION

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of this Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies and/or corporations for office renovations to the Maintenance Department Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Saipan International Airport.

The Scope of Work is available for pick-up beginning November 29, 2017 from 0800 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Executive Director's Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. The Scope of Work includes layouts and project specification. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the Scope of Work. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project if so required.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com with copy to Fermin Flores at ferminf@cpa.gov.mp no later than December 8, 2017.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT OFFICE RENOVATION, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-SA-002-18." One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2 p.m. LOCAL TIME, December 15, 2017, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO

_____ _____
Executive Director Date

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

CNMI Government

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO.: CPA-IFB-003-18

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 22, 2017 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT 2018 SUV VEHICLE 6CYL/4WD, AUTO TRANSMISSION, AIR-CONDITION WHITE COLOR, ALL OTHER FEATURES AS PER FACTORY SPECS. BIDDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO DELIVER THE VEHICLE TO THE SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE ORIGINAL BID AND 2 COPIES TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: **"PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-18"** BIDDERS SHALL GUARANTEE DELIVERY OF THE VEHICLE ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2017. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BID SHALL BE IN WRITING AND SEND VIA EMAIL TO atudela@cpa.gov.mp prior to December 18, 2017.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND §40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO Date: _____
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO.: CPA-IFB-006-18

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2017 TIME 2:00 PM

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF THREE (3) UNIT 2017 ACCESS CAB WORK TRUCKS 4CYL/4WD, AUTO TRANSMISSION, AIR CONDITION WHITE COLOR, ALL OTHER FEATURES AS PER FACTORY SPECS. LOCKABLE FITTED BED TOOL BOX TO BE INCLUDED.

TWO (2) UNITS ARE FOR THE SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. ONE (1) UNIT IS FOR TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. BIDDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO DELIVER THE VEHICLES TO THEIR DESTINATION.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE ORIGINAL BID AND 2 COPIES TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: "PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-006-18" BIDDERS SHALL GUARANTEE DELIVERY OF THE VEHICLES WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM AWARD OF THIS BID. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BID SHALL BE IN WRITING AND SEND VIA EMAIL TO atudela@cpa.gov.mp prior to December 8, 2017.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND §40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND WAIVE IMMATERIALDEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

/s/
CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Date: 11/21/2017

MCS students participate in National Hour of Code

This past week, Mount Carmel School elementary students joined tens of millions kids from over 180 countries around the world by participating in the global Hour of Code.

Guided by students from the school's Advance Placement Computer Science Principles, the elementary students learned basic coding concepts in hands-on lessons using iPads provided as part of the school's 21st Century Technology initiative.

According to the organizers, Hour of Code and Computer Science Education Week Advisory and Review Committees, the Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code," to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science, starting with one-hour coding activities but expanding to all sorts of community efforts.

The school's director of information technology, Jonathan "J.C." Clark, initiated the school's effort by coding with elementary teachers. With this year's launch, Clark was very happy with the time spent with students.

"We want no student to fall behind the technology curve," said Clark.

His perspective is informed by over 20 years of experience in application development, network management, and computer programming and is a Linux Foundation certified engineer. Under J.C.'s leadership, the school has steadily improved its IT system over the past two years.

In launching the Hour of Code at the school, Clark emphasized that the benefits extend beyond computer technology. As he put it, "Coding concepts such as prototyping and problem abstraction are used throughout all disciplines."

When asked about why the Hour of Code was focused on elementary students, Clark said, "It is imperative that we begin computer literacy education early."

School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero agrees. "Coding is truly the language of the future, and all the brain research shows that languages are picked up much more easily the younger the students are."

The Hour of Code and the school's 21st Century Technology Initiative are also part of the school's strategic master plan. In its commitment to the tech initiative, the school's board of directors approved the allocation of human and financial resources to ensure that students are getting the most technologically advanced education possible on island. ***(PR)***

Beaujolais Noveau Launch Party

Shirley Sablan, general manager of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc., and guests enjoy glasses of Beaujolais Nouveau at the launch party on Nov. 28, 2017, at the Chambre Bar of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. DONNA RIVERA

Junichi Kitagawa, Hiroko Tenorio and friends enjoy the launch night of Beaujolais Nouveau at the Chambre Bar of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan on Nov. 28, 2017. DONNA RIVERA

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan executive chef Roland Fitz, Aileen Labadnoy and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan F&B director Das Krishnan pose for a picture after the successful launch night of Beaujolais Nouveau at the Chambre Bar on Nov. 28, 2017. DONNA RIVERA

Mila Pellegrino and friends enjoy glasses of Beaujolais Nouveau, delicious appetizers and great music during the launch night at the Chambre Bar of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan on Nov. 28, 2017. DONNA RIVERA

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS
AVAILABLE NOW
OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND SERVE AT THE
UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMIES
CONGRESSMAN GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
MAY NOMINATE STUDENTS TO THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY, U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY,
AND THE U.S. MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY
ELIGIBILITY
• UNITED STATES CITIZEN
• UNMARRIED WITH NO DEPENDENTS
• AGE 17-23
• HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR/GRADUATE
• STRONG ACADEMIC RECORD
• ABILITY TO PASS A PHYSICAL TEST
More information and applications can be found at www.sablan.house.gov or by calling
670-323-2647/8 on Saipan, 433-2647 on Tinian, or 532-2647 on Rota
Application Deadline : December 8, 2017
Paid for by official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives

Inaugural MIFF opens with lavish reception

The inaugural Marianas International Film Festival kicked off with a lavish opening ceremony Wednesday night at the Aqua Resort Club, with celluloid stars from China, CNMI, Korea, Japan and Taiwan descending on the Achugao resort.

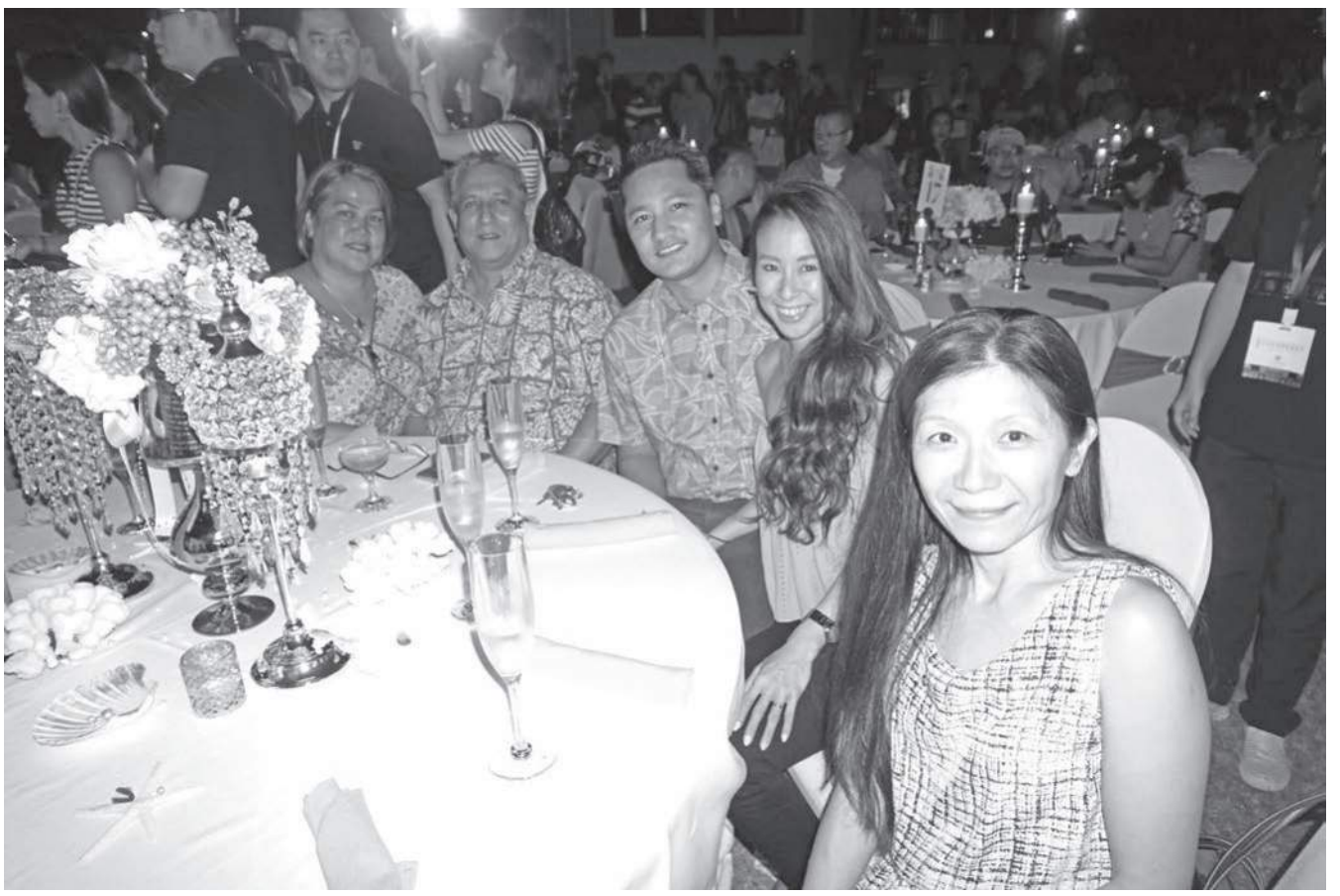
Sponsored by Imperial Pacific International Ltd., Marianas Visitors Authority, and IT&E, the glitterati that graced Wednesday night's opening was led by IPI executives headed by IPI chair Cui Lijie and IPI CEO Mark Brown, first lady Diane Torres, MVA managing director Chris Concepcion, and Rep. Joseph Guerrero (R-Saipan), various actors, and filmmakers.

Brown promised even more events in the future. "Between the MVA and IPI, we have many more things events like this planned. This is something that we plan to do every year. Imagine Hollywood stars and celebrities here. Saipan is a very beautiful place, that is why we are bringing these beautiful people on island."

Concepcion said: "We are very excited as MVA welcomes this high profile event for the CNMI with all these celebrities and film executives out here. …It brings the spotlight to our islands as a destination for leisure, business and arts and culture and we congratulate everyone who is part of this event."

The opening ceremony and banquet included a Young Director Supporting Programme and Film Industry Forum.

There were free screening of films at the Regal Saipan Megaplex 7 yesterday. The red carpet show and awards ceremony will be held today at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, followed by dinner at Fiesta Resort & Spa, and an after-party back at Imperial Pacific. ***(Bea Cabrera)***



ARC unveils new fine dining restaurant

Kevin's The Prime Rib and Seafood Restaurant located at Aqua Resort Club officially opened its doors last Dec. 1 and is ready to serve the public from 6:30pm to 10pm. A 10-percent discount is available for residents.

Touted as a fine dining restaurant, Kevin's The Prime Rib and Seafood Restaurant held a soft opening to tour agencies and media last Nov. 27 and showed everyone what this new restaurant can offer.

For reservations, call (670) 322-1225 or visit www.aquaresortsaipan.com.

Hell of the Marianas gets int'l coverage

The 2017 Hell of The Marianas attracted 181 registrants from 11 countries, along with media from four outlets, bringing an estimated $10 million in advertising exposure to the islands.

Of the 161 who started the race, Mark John Galedo of the Philippines bettered his 2016 finish, crossing the finish line in 3:15:51, followed closely by countrymen Ronald Lomotos in 3:15:55 and Janpaul Morales in 3:21:32.

In the Pro/Elite Women Division, Yasue Nakahara of Japan led with 4:01:51, followed by Chau Yu Ng of Hong Kong (4:32:50).

Kristina Ingversson of Guam was the second female and the first in the Non-Pro Women Division to cross the finish line (4:15:12).

Frontrunners lead the pack about halfway through the Hell of the Marianas century cycle on Dec. 2, 2017. MVA

Nearly 150 cyclists joined the Hell of the Marianas century cycle on Dec. 2, 2017, on Saipan. MVA

Participating countries were South Korea, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Guam, Philippines, Italy, Russia, France, United Kingdom, and the Marianas. The Marianas fielded 83 competitors, while the second largest contingent of 17 hailed from South Korea.

"We're very pleased with the outcome of the 2018 Hell of the Marianas, especially in terms of attracting a field from a wide variety of countries," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "It was a well-executed race, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with Northern Marianas Cycling Federation to continue to grow the event."

Several media outlets will feature the race in upcoming publications. *Leon, Ordinary,* and *Velo Page* of South Korea have a combined readership of 170,000 and will feature the race, Tinian, and other attractions in the Marianas in their January or February issues. *RUNRiDE.JP* online magazine targets male bikers in their 20s to 50s, has 250,000 page views per month, and will feature the race on Jan. 8, 2018.

The 100K road race is an annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority and features picturesque views from Saipan's northern to southern tip. ***(MVA)***

6 nominees for two SYP annual awards

The Saipan Young Professionals Committee has named four nominees for its 2017 Community Leadership Award and two nominees for its Rookie of the Year Award.

The winners will be announced at the SYP Christmas party on Friday, Dec. 8, at Latte Stone Room of Kanoa Resort. The nominees were announced at SYP's monthly meeting last Nov. 21.

The following were nominated by SYP members and mentors for the 2017 Community Leadership Award: Nicole Babauta (CNMI Small Business Development Center), Emanuel Borja (Hofschneider Engineering), Glen Hunter (The Shack), and Shayne Villanueva (Roil Soil).

Villanueva is also nominated for the 2017 SYP Rookie of the Year award, together with Tania David of the Bank of Guam.

Each nominee is a member of the Saipan Young Professionals Committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Borja

Babauta

Villanueva

David

Hunter

Prior to joining CNMI's SBDC, Babauta worked at DFS Saipan Ltd. as a learning & development specialist and for the United Services Automobile Association in Colorado Springs as a financial foundations specialist. As director of CNMI's SBDC, her position enables her to support the economic development of the Western Pacific region and act as a mentor, resource, and guide to small businesses at no cost. She is a graduate of University of Phoenix and holds a bachelor's degree in Business Management with a concentration in Global Business Management and a Master of Business Administration degree.

Borja graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering. He began work for the Division of Environmental Quality as a regulatory engineer specializing in erosion control and solid waste management. At DEQ, with the Earthmoving and Erosion Control Branch, he worked to improve compliance of construction project stormwater management controls. Borja is currently employed at Hofschneider Engineering Corp., where he uses his environmental background to aid in the design of environmentally responsible infrastructure. Borja has also worked as a part-time instructor at Mount Carmel School, where he taught AP Calculus for four years. Although he is no longer teaching, he currently does freelance tutoring.

Outside of work, Borja volunteers with the Marianas March Against Cancer, where he has served as overall chairperson for two years and treasurer for five years. He has been an administrator for CNMI MathCourt for six years as a test writer, scoring administrator, webmaster, and head coach for Team CNMI high school. He has also volunteered as choreography director with Stellar Marianas for two years.

Hunter owns and manages "The Shack," a restaurant. He has extensive experience in the beverage trade, retail/wholesale industries, new media and technology development, as well as networking and computer-related services. He also supports social causes and volunteers for United-4Saipan, CNMI C.O.R.E. and the CNMI Long Term Recovery Team. In 2015, he received the Saipan Young Professional Community Leadership Award.

Villanueva, an alumnus of Mt. Carmel School, began his career in the sales industry. Roil Soil Clothing came to be in May of 2015. In September 2016 Villanueva moved back to Saipan and partnered with Kagman High School art teacher Peter Aldan to create a unique company. Villanueva works fulltime as operation manager for AON Insurance.

Villanueva supports charities/movements and was awarded a Bank of Hawaii grant for small businesses to help continue the mission of Roil Soil. On top of his nomination for the Community Leadership Award, he was also nominated for the 2017 SYP Rookie of the Year.

Another nominee, David, is currently the assistant vice-president/operations manager at Bank of Guam's Garapan Branch. She has been with Bank of Guam since 1997.

David was a Liberal Arts major at the Northern Marianas College in 2009 and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Business Management from the University of Phoenix.

David is a former overseas committee chair of the Girl Scouts of the NMI, former chair/vice chair, Family Readiness Group-Echo Co., Det. 1, 100th Battalion 442nd Infantry Regiment, and former Member of Pet Assistance & Welfare Services.

She is currently president of the Bank of Guam Employees Club, treasurer to the Soroptimist Int'l of the NMI, and a fellow of the Pacific Century Fellowship 2017 cohort.

To find out who will receive the 2017 Community Leadership Award, join the SYP at its Christmas party. To purchase a ticket or for more information contact the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Office at (670) 234-7150 or visit Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315. For the latest information on the SYP Committee, visit their Facebook page at Saipan Young Professionals (https://www.facebook.com/syp96950). ***(PR)***

MINA gives marine debris prevention film to PSS

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance recently gave an early Christmas gift to CNMI students with the donation of an educational video about marine debris prevention to the Public School System.

MINA presented the video to acting Education Commissioner Glenn Muna and Rose Ada Hocog, communications and outreach coordinator for PSS, for distribution throughout the CNMI's bilingual classrooms for inclusion in their curriculum.

MINA produced the educational video about marine debris prevention using a grant received from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

The film features Ponce and Merissa Rasa and family, Romeo and Lorna Iginoef, Mallory Muna, Wayne Dawe, and Daniel Kaipat. The film highlights the dangers of marine debris and its hazards to the marine environment, and brings awareness to the students of the seriousness of the situation.

RELATED NEWS

The link to *My Haggan Dream* can be found at:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEx2oE_x9O8&t=24s
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9wZgi7agp0&t=46s (Chamorro)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nj2iz99bHk&t=130s (English)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wJogcqW0_c (Carolinian)

Left to right, Wayne Dawe, Becky Furey, Roberta Guerrero, Glenn Muna, and Rose Hocog. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MINA acknowledged the help of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Chamorro/Carolinian Language Affairs Commission, and PSS for making this film possible.

MINA would also like to acknowledge the hard work put into the production of this film by scriptwriters Jolly Ann Cruz, grant writer Brooke Nevitt, production assistance from KSPN, translation services of Manuel Borja, and narration by Bob Coldeen, Patricia Kapileo, and Jonas Barcinas.

In addition, MINA also presented Muña with copies of the award-winning film *My Haggan Dream*, the story of a young girl's mission to understand the fragile existence of the green sea turtle and her commitment to preserve the turtle for future generations.

To learn more about MINA's programs, email minaoutreach@gmail.com, or call MINA at 233-7333 (REEF). ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

FOA execs at radio program

Susan Fishman-Tudor and Harold Easton will be the featured guests in this Sunday's "Your Humanities Half-Hour" radio program.

Fishman-Tudor, president of the Friends of the Arts, and Easton, FOA board member, will present an excerpt from the hilarious production of *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of A Christmas Carol*, scheduled for Dec. 15, 16, and 17, 2017, at American Memorial Park. They will also share about the work of FOA and upcoming activities anticipated for 2018. "Your Humanities Half-Hour," which airs each Sunday from 2pm to 2:30pm on Power 99 (97.9 FM), is hosted by Catherine Perry. ***(PR)***

2 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged Old Man By The Sea and Unai Dangkulo and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Volunteers sought for Tank Beach cleanup

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be picking up trash at Tank Beach in Kagman this Saturday, Dec. 9.

If you would like to volunteer, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Tank Beach entrance at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt.

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ at 664-8500/1. ***(BECQ)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Dec. 14

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association support meeting on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker will be Salome A. Castro of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

If inebriated, call a driver!

The Department of Public Safety will implement the 4D Designated Drivers Program on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 8 and 9, from 10pm to 5am, and on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 2pm to 6pm. The number to call for the Designated Driver Program is 483-RIDE (7433) or 287-RIDE (7433). ***(PR)***

BOG's Guam and CNMI holiday schedule

Bank of Guam has the following holiday hours:

- Friday, Dec. 8, 2017: All Guam and CNMI branches will be closed. The Customer Service Department will also be closed from 3pm to midnight.
- Monday, Dec. 25, 2017: All branches will be closed. The Customer Service Department will be closed beginning Sunday, Dec. 24, 2017, at noon, all day Christmas Day, reopening after midnight on Dec. 26, 2017
- Monday, Jan. 1, 2018: All branches will be closed. The Customer Service Department will be closed beginning Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017, at noon, all day New Year's Day, reopening after midnight on Jan. 2, 2018. ***(PR)***

Water service interruption in Dandan

There will be a scheduled water service interruption until today, Dec. 7, from 1pm to 5pm in the Dandan area (Pasgua Ct., Paseo Ct., Hafa Adai Ave., Palasyo Ct. and Mwaremwar Ave.). The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor, AIC Marianas Inc., will be replacing a 6-inch water gate valve. ***(PR)***

Expectation of an early death puts man's life in a tailspin

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I spent an evening with a guy I've been wanting to date for some time. After a few drinks he confided to me that he has a serious heart condition. He said he doesn't expect to live past age 23 and he could die any day.

I don't know the details of his condition, but I'm sure he believes what he told me. Because of this his life has taken a downward spiral. He has been drinking a lot, failed multiple classes last semester and feels like studying is futile if he may only live a year after graduating.

For lack of evidence to the contrary, I accepted his statement as accurate. I don't think he'd make up something like that. What can I say or do to show my support? How can I encourage him not to give up on his dreams and his goals? He's only 19. How can I be strong for him?

Since he told me about his heart I haven't been able to think about anything else. I don't know how to process this information. How do you comfort someone you care about who's facing mortality at such a young age?

BROKENHEARTED GUY IN THE SOUTH

DEAR BROKENHEARTED GUY: If you want to be a friend to this young man, ask how many doctors have told him about his poor prognosis. If the answer is only one, urge him to get a second opinion because there are medical advances in cardiology happening every day, and he may not be nearly as close to the end as he fears.

You say he's still in school. Suggest he talk to someone at the student health center about his depression because it is interfering with his grades. And while you're at it, suggest he stop drinking and neglecting his studies because, in the end, he might LIVE.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My best friend of more than 20 years is a busy person. She has a demanding job, a husband, two children and extended family she cooks for on most holidays. She also cares for an elderly distant relative. She has a heart of gold and is wonderful to me and my family.

When I'm invited to her house for dinner, she refuses to let me help her clear the table. I'm not happy with that, but I accept it. The problem arises when I invite her over for dinner. Because we don't get to visit often, I'll pile the dishes in the kitchen so I can spend time with her and wash them later. But she cannot sit still and just have a conversation with me or anybody. You will find her in the kitchen scraping plates, soaking pans and hand-washing the wine glasses.

This has become a point of contention because I like to unwind and clean my kitchen after my guests have left. I have tried working with her, but she prefers to power through the mess by herself, which gives us less time to sit and talk. How can I get through to her?

ANXIOUS IN NEW YORK

DEAR ANXIOUS: Assuming that you have spoken to your friend more than once about this, I think it's time to accept her the way she is, rather than the way you would like her to be. Some people are unable (notice I didn't say unwilling) to just sit still and have a conversation, and she appears to be one of them. If this is her only flaw, consider yourself blessed to have a sparkling kitchen when she leaves.

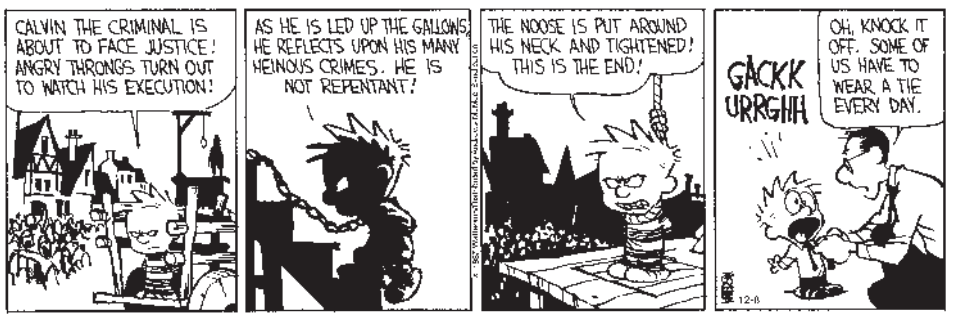
■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

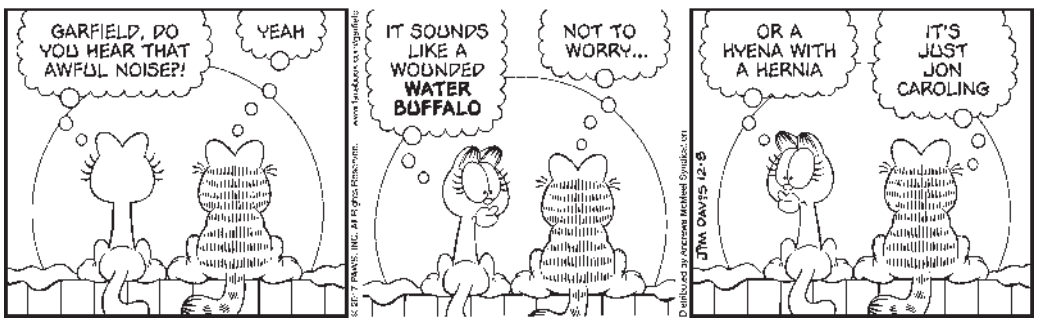
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CALVIN THE CRIMINAL IS ABOUT TO FACE JUSTICE! ANGRY THRONGS TURN OUT TO WATCH HIS EXECUTION!
AS HE IS LED UP THE GALLOWS, HE REFLECTS UPON HIS MANY HEINOUS CRIMES. HE IS NOT REPENTANT!
THE NOOSE IS PUT AROUND HIS NECK AND TIGHTENED! THIS IS THE END!
GACKK URRGHH
OH, KNOCK IT OFF. SOME OF US HAVE TO WEAR A TIE EVERY DAY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


GARFIELD, DO YOU HEAR THAT AWFUL NOISE?
YEAH
IT SOUNDS LIKE A WOUNDED WATER BUFFALO
NOT TO WORRY...
OR A HYENA WITH A HERNIA
IT'S JUST JON CAROLING

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M KIND OF WARMING UP TO THE FAKE TREE.
OH, GOOD.
IT'S ACTUALLY KIND OF REAL-LOOKING, AND IT'LL BE HERE EVERY YEAR. IT'S A NEW TRADITION!
PLUS IT SHOWS OUR COMMITMENT TO CLAYTON AND HIS ALLERGIES. IT'S COOL.
THAT'S VERY MATURE OF YOU, KATY.
RIGHT? AND IF I SAY IT TWENTY MORE TIMES, I MIGHT START TO BELIEVE IT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HERE—I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A WARNING THIS TIME.
THIS ISN'T A WARNING! IT'S A FIFTY-DOLLAR TICKET!
I'M WARNING YOU... YOU BETTER PAY THAT TICKET.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 State VIP
4 Punch
8 Note from the boss
12 — Dhabi
13 Circle dance
14 Flair
15 Showtime drama starring Paul Giamatti
17 Pickling herb
18 School session
19 Devoutness
20 Thump
22 Grand tale
24 Partially mine
25 Rounds of applause
29 Undivided
30 Prepared to propose
31 By way of
32 Intense feelings
34 Lend a hand
35 TiVo predecessors
36 Drills
37 Bo of "10"
40 Columnist Maureen
41 Wicked
42 Personal views
46 Karate level
47 Split apart
48 Formerly called
49 Sloth's home
50 Transcript stats
51 "Mangia!"

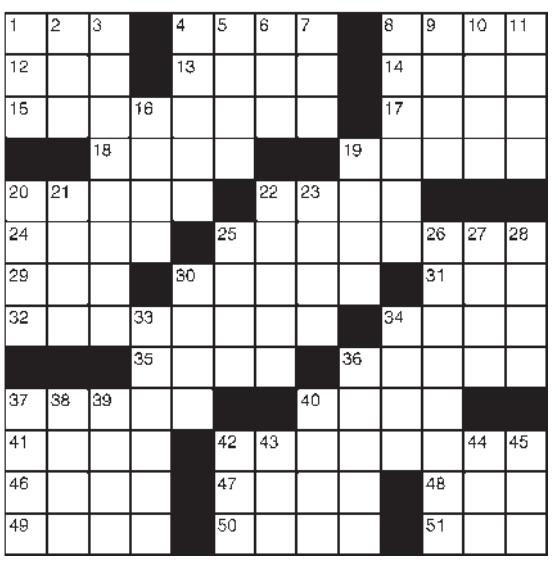
DOWN

1 Talk on and on
2 Kimono sash
3 Birds of prey
4 Dodge, as work
5 Weaving frame
6 Samovar
7 Tank filler
8 Noble Florentine family
9 Writer Wiesel
10 Beer ingredient
11 Unique
16 Camera part
19 "Troy" actor Brad
20 Hen pen
21 Moth variety
22 Levels
23 Buddies
25 — about (roughly)
26 Exaggerated
27 Cleopatra's river
28 Easy targets
30 Go for a field goal
33 Willowy
34 "— Met Your Mother"
36 Dog biscuit shapes
37 Arrears
38 Always
39 Anger
40 Prima donna
42 URL ending
43 Domino spot
44 Museum-funding org.
45 Filming site

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	R	E	S	■	R	A	W	■	E	L	L	
L	I	L	I	■	A	N	I	■	E	M	I	T
O	P	E	C	■	M	O	N	■	S	P	E	D
T	A	C	K	L	E	■	S	I	L	O	■	■
■	■	■	B	I	N	G	O	C	A	R	D	S
L	O	C	A	L	■	A	M	Y	■	I	R	A
A	H	O	Y	■	M	M	E	■	P	J	N	Y
M	I	R	■	P	I	E	■	M	E	M	O	S
B	O	N	G	O	D	R	U	M	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	D	R	E	W	■	D	I	■	H	E	N
A	L	O	E	■	E	N	D	■	E	A	V	E
T	O	G	A	■	S	E	E	■	R	H	E	A
M	O	S	T	■	T	A	R	■	S	A	N	D

Yesterday's answer 12-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nicki Minaj, 33; Dominic Monaghan, 41; Teri Hatcher, 53; James Galway, 78.

Happy Birthday: Make your voice heard and let your actions show that you mean business. Clear the passage and focus on what's ahead. Implement changes that will raise your standard of living and bring you peace of mind. Self-awareness and an empathetic attitude toward life and dealing with others will encourage better relationships. Make personal improvements a priority this year. Your numbers are 8, 11, 24, 35, 38, 41, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Use your intelligence to get ahead. Learn as you go and you will be showered with good fortune. Make plans and consider changes to your professional future. Love is in the stars and positive change is within reach. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You'll be tempted to take a risk that has the potential to change your life. Before you jump in, make your position clear to those you care about. A second opinion will help you make the best choice. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Use intelligence when dealing with domestic matters. Relatives can be persuaded to pitch in and help if you lay out your plans for home improvements. Intellectual conversations will lead to greater intimacy with someone you want to spend more time with. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You'll learn a lot through discussions as well as observation. Make changes based on your discoveries and you will advance. A discussion with a friend or relative will help you put things in perspective. Offer help and you'll reap rewards. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take better care of your health, reputation and relationships with others. Emotional manipulation should not be allowed whether it's you or someone else who is the culprit. Look for the right way to come out on top. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Emotions will be difficult to control. You'll only be given partial information, making it necessary to dig deep and do your own fact-finding. Don't make assumptions or jump to conclusions. Get along with others but don't divulge your plans. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Get involved in activities, fundraising events or a cause you want to contribute to. Your input will be well-received and help you formulate a path you want to follow in the future. New friendships will turn out to be influential. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* An opportunity to make a move will tempt you. Before making any promises, consider whether it will take up more time than necessary and if you will still be able to maintain your current commitments. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Short trips, conversations or making changes to the way you live are favored. Trust your judgment and the facts you gather, not in hearsay or someone who tries to coerce you into doing something. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Look over your personal papers and investments, and research any medical issues that are causing you concern. It's up to you to do the legwork and to take care of your personal responsibilities before the year comes to a close. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Working in a group or with someone you share a common interest with will lead to victory. You can bring about changes that will improve your life as well as the lives of others. Share and good things will happen. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take care of your responsibilities without making a fuss. Staying in the background and avoiding senseless debates will ensure that you don't end up ruining your reputation or endangering your position. Staying neutral is your best option. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are funny, playful and passionate. You are sympathetic and thoughtful.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7	9					
			5	8		7		
2							3	
1	3			5				
	7						6	
				7			4	9
	9							8
		4		2	3			
					1	6		

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/08

Yesterday's Answer

9	8	3	7	4	5	6	1	2
2	4	1	9	3	6	7	5	8
6	7	5	1	8	2	3	9	4
4	1	2	6	9	3	8	7	5
8	5	6	2	1	7	4	3	9
7	3	9	4	5	8	2	6	1
3	9	7	5	2	4	1	8	6
5	2	8	3	6	1	9	4	7
1	6	4	8	7	9	5	2	3

Difficulty level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

FREE WEIGHTS Solution: 11 letters

L	L	C	C	H	E	S	T	Y	T	I	V	A	R	G
L	L	H	S	M	A	R	G	K	T	H	G	I	E	W
E	E	A	T	U	O	K	R	O	W	E	G	N	U	L
B	B	L	B	F	L	E	X	I	B	I	L	I	T	Y
B	R	L	F	E	T	E	L	H	T	A	B	S	L	E
M	A	E	A	D	N	A	H	S	G	L	U	T	E	S
U	B	N	S	T	G	I	E	S	L	A	O	G	T	N
D	D	G	N	R	N	V	C	U	S	K	C	A	B	O
E	S	E	I	T	O	O	P	I	L	E	S	L	H	I
E	E	P	A	L	S	H	Z	A	D	D	Ⓡ	Ⓔ	Ⓟ	Ⓢ
P	O	E	G	D	S	E	H	I	N	E	A	P	T	N
S	H	B	A	U	L	C	E	U	R	V	M	A	E	E
T	S	U	P	E	R	I	O	R	Y	O	B	L	M	T
E	Q	L	N	A	L	P	F	R	F	L	H	R	S	X
S	G	N	I	N	I	A	R	T	E	L	A	H	X	E

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Abs, Arm, Athlete, Back, Barbell, Chalk, Challenge, Chest, Core, Deadlift, Dumbbell, Effort, Exhale, Extension, Flexibility, Free, Gains, Gloves, Glutes, Goals, Grams, Gravity, Grip, Hand, Heavy, Horizontal, Light, Lunge, Medicine Ball, Plan, Pounds, Press, Pull, Push, Quads, Reps, Sets, Shoes, Speed, Stable, Superior, Training, Weight, Workout

Yesterday's Answer: Roommates

Purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 37 through 52** in time for the holidays. Order online at WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1 Manager: $1,500-$2,000/mo. 4-year engineering college degree and at least 2 years of management experience in a construction company are required. Email resume to betocorp@hanmisaipan.com.

1 Photographer or assistant: 2 years experience preferred, but not required. Compensation is negotiable based on experience. Email resume to summerglowphoto@gmail.com.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for Design-Build for the Installation of PAPI/REIL at Runway 25 at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-SA-001-11 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950.

One original and three copies of the sealed bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2017**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Saipan International Airport Runway 25 PAPI/REIL Installation, Project No. CPA-SA-001-11.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to Design-Build contractor to provide a complete Design and Construction for the Runway 25's New Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) and Runway End Identifier Light (REIL) Systems based on the PAPI/REIL Systems to be supplied by CPA. Design and Installation will include other related support tasks as described and all in accordance with the Statement of Work and other information.

The Project is being solely financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). Funds have been allocated, and supplemental funding will be made available depending on the bid amounts. The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Statement of Work and other information may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Saipan International Airport Conference room, at **10:00 AM, Friday, December 15, 2017** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. Attendance of the Pre-Bid Conference is mandatory. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference date.

The Contract period for Design and Construction of the Project in its entirety shall be one hundred fifty (150) calendar days. The performance period shall include all required designs calculations, progress submittal reviews, approval of the final design, complete permitting, procurement of materials, other construction incidentals, system certification, punch list corrections final operational testing, acceptance and other requirements necessary to deliver a complete, usable and dependable PAPI/REIL systems and facilities. Liquidated damages in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible", their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, seven (7) days prior to the date designated above for the bid opening.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70 of the General Provisions. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: November 16, 2017

ROBERT T. TORRES
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms, Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 234-7859
Fax: 234-5750

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. KYLE E.M. ULECHONG and JENNIFER N.W. ULECHONG, Defendants.) **Civil Action No. 09-0407**) **NOTICE OF HEARING FOR MOTION TO CONFIRM SALE OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Motion to Confirm Sale of Mortgaged Property by Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust in this matter has been filed with the Court and said Motion is set for a hearing on this 10th day of January, 2018, at 9:00, am/pm, before Judge Kim Tenorio in the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of November, 2017.
CLERK OF COURT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Cristina Laxamana Petitioner, vs. Villamor T. Bondoc Respondent,) FCD-DI-CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0428) **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 298, P.O. Box 10000 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 16th day of November, 2017.
/s/
Clerk of Court

JOE HILL, Esq.
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753
Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

GEMMA TARROZA-BATUSIN, Petitioner, Versus NORBERTO M. BATUSIN Respondent.) FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0469) **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 3rd day of October, 2017
/s/
Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST

Announcement # JVA17-05
Superior Court
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Commonwealth Recorder or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Records documents presented for recording with the Commonwealth Recorder in Saipan;
- Certifies copies of birth and death certificates to Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) and marriage certificates to the general public;
- Assists members of the general public in completing affidavit forms for minor corrections to birth and death certificates;
- Assists on assessing fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips, and makes disbursements when ordered or directed;
- Assists whenever an assigned deputy clerk is not available to perform assigned duties such as providing clerical support to a judge or special judge in courtroom proceeding(s);
- Provides assistance to the Presiding Judge in areas involving administrative matters.
- Performing other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus a minimum of two (2) year work experience in office clerical work and operate a computer, word processing, website operation skill and proficient in Microsoft Office. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances, a valid CNMI driver's license, and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be $20,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

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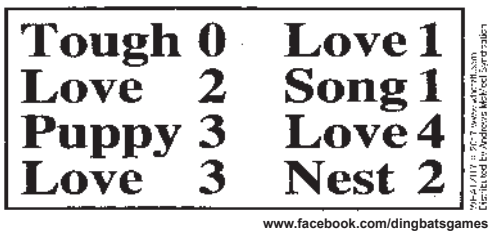


Mariners, Angels each get $1M for Ohtani from Twins

AP
In this Nov. 19, 2015, file photo, Japan's starter Shohei Ohtani pitches against South Korea during the first inning of their semifinal game at the Premier12 world baseball tournament at Tokyo Dome in Tokyo.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Seattle Mariners and Los Angeles Angels each have acquired $1 million in international bonus pool money from the Minnesota Twins, aiding their pursuit of Japanese outfielder and pitcher Shohei Ohtani.

The teams announced the deals Wednesday night. Seattle sent minor league catcher David Banuelos to Minnesota, while the Angels traded minor league outfielder Jacob Pearson to the Twins.

Seattle can now offer Ohtani $2,557,500 and Los Angeles can spend $2,315,000. The Texas Rangers have the most slot money available with $3,535,000. Seattle, Los Angeles and Texas are among seven teams believed to be in the running for Ohtani.

Minnesota had $3.07 million in bonus pool money before the trades, but it is not among the finalists in the Ohtani bidding.

Banuelos was a fifth-round draft pick this year from Long Beach State. He is considered a strong fielder and was a finalist for the Johnny Bench Award as one of the nation's top amateur catchers.

Pearson was Los Angeles' third-round selection this year.

In Arlington, the Texas Rangers completed a Minor deal Wednesday while waiting for Ohtani to decide where he wants to play.

A day after meeting in Los Angeles with the Japanese pitcher and outfielder, Rangers officials were back home in Texas to introduce left-hander Mike Minor after finalizing a $28 million, three-year contract.

General manager Jon Daniels described Minor as a primary target in the team's offseason pursuit to replenish and bolster its pitching staff.

"He's somebody that we've liked back in his amateur days. ... Gets to the big leagues, promising starter, had a hiccup and then dominant last year again," Daniels said of Minor, a standout reliever for Kansas City last season.

While the Rangers' interest in Ohtani has been well-known, Daniels and other team officials didn't want to talk Wednesday about the pitcher-outfielder or their visit with him.

Ohtani was put up for bid last week by the Pacific League's Nippon Ham Fighters for the maximum $20 million posting fee. The 23-year-old has until 11:59 p.m. EST on Dec. 22 to agree to a contract with an MLB team. The Rangers are among seven teams he is considering.

Meanwhile, Minor is the second pitcher the Rangers have signed in a week. He gets a $1 million signing bonus and salaries of $8 million next season and $9.5 million each in 2019 and 2020. He has a limited no-trade provision that allows him to list 10 teams each year he can't be traded to without his consent.

When the offseason began, the Rangers had only left-handers Cole Hamels and Martin Perez signed for their 2018 rotation. Right-hander Doug Fister last week agreed to a $4 million, one-year deal that could be worth up to $11.5 million over two seasons.

Minor was 6-6 with a 2.55 ERA in 77 2/3 innings over 65 relief appearances last season with Kansas City. He previously was a starter for Atlanta before missing the 2015 and 2016 seasons with shoulder issues. The Braves picked him seventh overall in the 2009 amateur draft.

NFL commissioner Goodell signs 5-year extension

NEW YORK (AP)—Roger Goodell has signed a five-year contract extension to remain commissioner of the NFL through 2024.

A memo from the NFL's compensation committee to team owners and obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press confirms that Goodell and committee chairman Arthur Blank, owner of the Atlanta Falcons, have signed the extension.

That extension has been a source of controversy because Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones objected to the process.

All 32 owners approved in May the compensation committee's power to negotiate and sign a deal with Goodell, who replaced Paul Tagliabue in 2006.

Since then, the league's total revenues have more than doubled to $14 billion.

A person familiar with the contract told The Associated Press it is worth almost $200 million, with a base of $40 million. But the deal is incentive-laden, the person added, speaking on condition of anonymity because the contract numbers are not made public.

Among those incentives are continued increases in revenues, stable or rising television ratings, a new labor agreement with the players—the NFL-NFL Players Association deal expires in 2021—and how much the NFL gets in rights fees when it renews its broadcast contracts.

Goodell earned nearly $32 million in 2015, the last year in which public records for the NFL are available.

"Our committee unanimously supports the contract and believes that it is fully consistent with `market' compensation and the financial and other parameters outlined to the owners at our May 2017 meeting, as well as in the best interests of ownership," Blank wrote in the memo.

"We also have expressed in those conversations our strong and unanimous belief that we should proceed to sign the agreement now, consistent with the unanimous May resolution and to avoid further controversy surrounding this issue.? We are pleased to report that there is a nearly unanimous consensus among the ownership in favor of signing the contract extension now."

That would not include Jones, whose objections surfaced publicly after his star running back, Ezekiel Elliott, ran out of legal options to appeal a six-game suspension handed down by Goodell under the NFL's personal conduct penalty.

Jones was not immediately available for comment.

The NFL's next owners meeting is in Dallas next Wednesday. Jones had hoped to delay the new deal with Goodell until then, when he could personally raise his concerns to other owners.

Also on the compensation committee are owners Clark Hunt of Kansas City, Robert Kraft of New England, John Mara of the New York Giants, Bob McNair of Houston and Art Rooney of Pittsburgh.

Boone has to prove himself to Yankees

NEW YORK (AP)—Aaron Boone was pulling into the driveway of his home in Scottsdale, Arizona, last Thursday, bringing 8-year-old daughter Bella home from school so his wife could drive her to a dance lesson, and he noticed a missed call from Brian Cashman.

Boone called back the New York Yankees general manager as his wife looked on and said Cashman told him: "Hey, just first and foremost, I want to make sure you're completely on board and understanding the commitment level that is now expected of you."

"If that's the case," Boone recalled Cashman saying, "I'm going to recommend to ownership that you're the guy we move forward and focus on."

And with that, at age 44 Boone had secured his first manager or coaching job of any kind since his retirement as a player eight years ago.

Boone was introduced Wednesday as New York's manager during a news conference at Yankee Stadium, where televisions throughout the ballpark showed images of him rounding the bases in triumph after his 11th-inning home run off Boston's Tim Wakefield won Game 7 of the 2003 AL Championship Series for New York.

"It's certainly something that I'm known for in my baseball life, obviously, and in some way probably is a contributor to me being here today," he said.

Among six candidates for the job, Boone so impressed Cashman and his staff that no second round of interviews was needed.

"The interview process is to try to determine how Aaron ticks and if he an extension of our philosophies or pretty close to an extension of our philosophies and what kind of decision-making process he would gravitate to," Cashman said. "That doesn't mean there won't be some growing pains on the beginning end, and we're OK with that."

Cashman recommended Boone after consulting with a smorgasbord of his modern-day front office: assistant GMs Jean Afterman and Mike Fishman, vice president of baseball operations Tim Naehring, senior director of player development Kevin Reese, assistant director of professional scouting Dan Giese, director of quantitative analysis David Grabiner, director of mental conditioning Chad Bohling, head athletic trainer Steve Donohue and vice president of communications Jason Zillo.

"There was a difference of opinion among the participants as to who their number two- or three-choice was, but there was little-to-no difference of opinion as to who their number-one choice was," Steinbrenner said. "It wasn't even close."

Cashman thought back to when he was assistant GM and owner George Steinbrenner promoted him to succeed Bob Watson as GM.

"He took a chance on me back in 1998, and here I am 20 years later," Cashman said.

Boone became the first manager hired by the Yankees since they moved into their new ballpark in 2009 and since George Steinbrenner died the following year.

Hal Steinbrenner, son of The Boss, spoke briefly with Boone outside Donohue's office when Boone interviewed on Nov. 17. Steinbrenner originally had said he and his siblings would meet with candidates who reached a second round.

"When I get that kind of recommendation from my top people, I just didn't see the need," he said.

Boone had worked for ESPN since retiring as a player. He acknowledged one of his first tasks will be to convince his players he can do the job.

"I think in short order I'll be able to earn that respect, that they'll be able to look at me, trust in me, know that I have their interest at heart, but know that hopefully I know what the heck I'm talking about," he said. "That's something that you have to earn over the initial days in spring training, in the season."

Irving, short-handed Celtics top Mavericks

BOSTON (AP)— The Boston Celtics are no strangers to adjusting on the fly this season.

They recovered from Gordon Hayward's injury on opening night and the early absence of Marcus Morris to reel of 16 straight victories following an 0-2 start.

That ability to bounce back was on display again to help them remain perfect against the Western Conference.

Kyrie Irving had 23 points and five assists, and Jayson Tatum added 17 points and 10 rebounds and the short-handed Celtics slipped past the Dallas Mavericks 97-90 on Wednesday night

Boston's Al Horford finished with 17 points, eight rebounds and eight assists.

"In the NBA you can have afternoons like today, where all of a sudden, you're down to 11 guys, and the next man up has got to be ready," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said.

Boston has won four straight and six of their last seven. The Celtics are 8-0 against the West.

The Celtics played without Jaylen Brown and Morris. Brown sat with an inflamed right eye, while Morris was out due to left knee soreness.

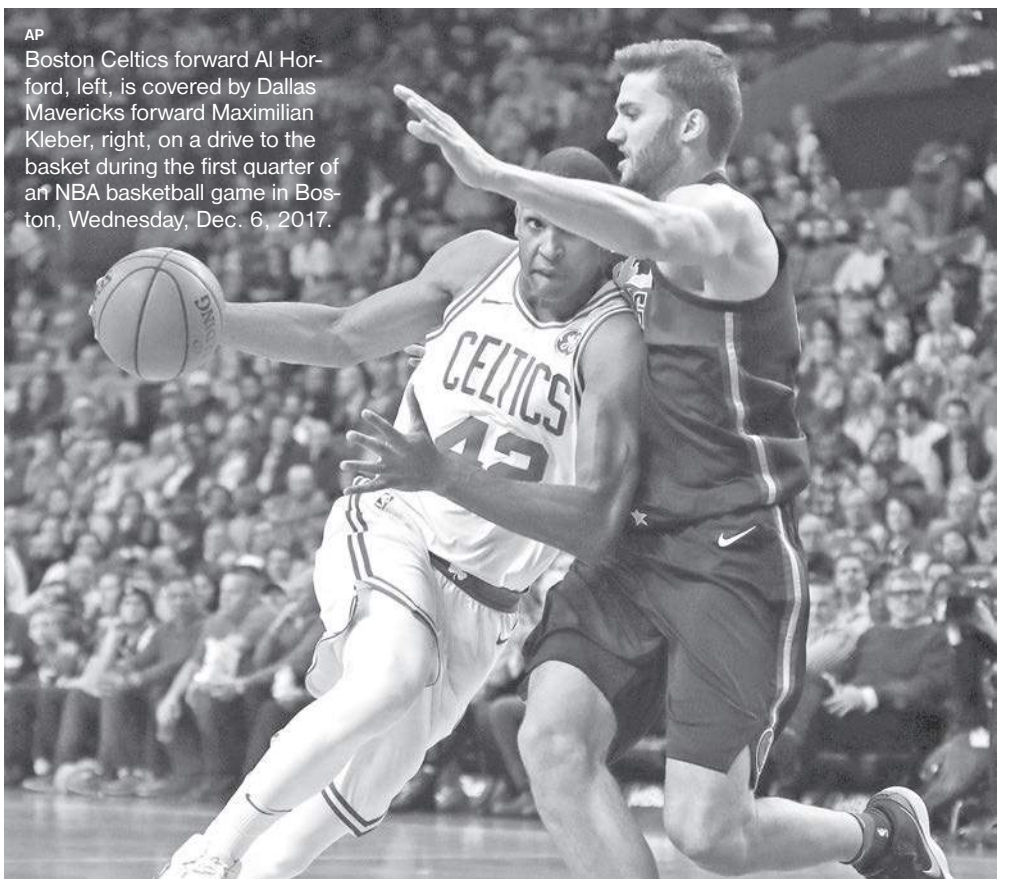
It forced Stevens to rely heavily on his reserves. They came through in the fourth, leading a 10-0 run to put Boston back in front 80-73.

Dallas fought back to tie it up at 85. But the Celtics ran off eight straight points to push their lead to 93-85 with 2 minutes to play.

"Just covering for one another. We're a team. We're pros for a reason," said Terry Rozier, who led all Celtics reserves with 12 points. "You put all that hard work in and you have to be ready."

Harrison Barnes led the Mavericks with 19 points and seven rebounds. Dirk Nowitzki added 16 points and six rebounds.

Boston's bench outscored their Dallas counterparts 36-23 for the game.



AP
Boston Celtics forward Al Horford, left, is covered by Dallas Mavericks forward Maximilian Kleber, right, on a drive to the basket during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017.

Cavaliers 101, Kings 95

In Cleveland, the Cavaliers tied a franchise record with their 13th straight win, 101-95 over the Sacramento Kings on Wednesday night.

James, who changed his sneakers three times, also had 11 rebounds and nine assists, helping the Cavs rally from a 14-point deficit in the third quarter to remain unbeaten since Nov. 11. His decisive 3-pointer in the final minute was in the face of JaKarr Sampson, who had jawed with James earlier.

Cleveland also won 13 straight in the 2008-09 and 2009-10 seasons. The Cavs will try for the team record Friday at Indiana.

Warriors 101, Hornets 87

In Charlotte, Kevin Durant had 35 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists, and Golden State beat Charlotte without Stephen Curry and Draymond Green.

It was Durant's first triple-double of the season and his second since joining the Warriors before last season.

Klay Thompson scored seven of his 22 points in the fourth quarter for the Warriors, who have won five straight overall and seven in a row against the Hornets.

Pelicans 123, Nuggets 114

In New Orleans, DeMarcus Cousins had 40 points, 22 rebounds and four blocks, and the Pelicans won for the second time in three games without Anthony Davis.

Jrue Holiday scored 27 points for New Orleans, which shot 53.5 percent (46 of 86).

Davis missed his third straight game with a strained left adductor. His status for New Orleans' next game remains unclear.

Timberwolves 113, Clippers 107

In Los Angeles, Karl-Anthony Towns had 21 points and 12 rebounds, powering the Timberwolves to the road win.

Jimmy Butler and Jeff Teague each scored 19 points for the Timberwolves (15-11), who placed six players in double figures. Taj Gibson had 16 points and 14 rebounds.

Knicks 99, Grizzlies 88

In New York, Courtney Lee scored 24 points and Kristaps Porzingis had 18 after a slow start in his return to the lineup, leading the Knicks to the win.

Moving from forward back to shooting guard in Tim Hardaway Jr.'s absence, Lee fell just shy of his season high and was the catalyst in a big run to open the second half that largely determined the game.

Bucks 104, Pistons 100

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 25 points and nine rebounds, and Milwaukee won for the fourth time in five games.

Khris Middleton had 21 points for the Bucks, including four free throws in the final 20 seconds.

The Bucks opened the fourth with a 14-1 run to lead 90-77 after Malcolm Brogdon's jumper with 6:42 left.

Spurs 117, Heat 105

In San Antonio, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 18 points, leading San Antonio to its sixth win in seven games.

The Spurs shot 52.9 percent from the field and had seven players score in double figures. Bryn Forbes had 17 points, and Rudy Gay finished with 16 in San Antonio's eighth straight win over Miami.

Pacers 98, Bulls 96

In Indianapolis, Victor Oladipo scored 27 points, including a clutch 3-pointer with 31.1 seconds left that lifted the Pacers to the comeback victory.

Bojan Bogdanovic had 17 points for Indiana (14-11), and Darren Collison finished with 14. Myles Turner had 11 points and blocked four shots, and Thaddeus Young finished with 10 points and nine rebounds.

Magic 110, Hawks 106, OT

In Orlando, Evan Fournier scored 27 points before departing with a right ankle injury, and the Magic rallied for the overtime win.

Aaron Gordon had 24 points and 15 rebounds for Orlando, and Nikola Vucevic added 22 points and 16 rebounds.

US viewers plunge for World Cup draw without American team

NEW YORK (AP)—The U.S. television audience plummeted for the World Cup draw without the presence of the Americans in the 32-nation field.

English-language coverage Friday on Fox's FS1 averaged 65,000 viewers from 10-11:05 a.m. EST, down 87 percent from a record average of 489,000 for the 2014 draw televised by ESPN2 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. EST on Dec. 6, 2013.

U.S. English-language viewers for the draw four years ago topped the previous high of 364,000 on Dec. 19, 1993, for the 1994 World Cup, the first in the United States.

Spanish-language coverage on Telemundo and Universo, both owned by NBCUniversal, averaged 300,000 viewers, down 70 percent from 1 million in 2013 on Univision. The networks said 273,000 tuned in on Telemundo and 27,000 on Universo.

The Americans' streak of seven World Cup appearances ended when the U.S. was eliminated with a 2-1 loss in October at Trinidad and Tobago.

Next year's World Cup final appears headed for a television conflict. The July 15 game in Moscow is scheduled for be televised by Fox starting at 6 p.m. local time, which is 11 a.m. EDT. Earlier this week, the All-England Club said the men's singles final of Wimbledon on the same day will keep its traditional start time of 2 p.m. in London, which is 9 a.m. EDT. The tennis will be broadcast in the U.S. by ESPN.

"We face competition every day, and it's not uncommon for even a top-shelf event to sometimes face a circumstance like this," Burke Magnus, ESPN's executive vice president of programming and scheduling, said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Lionel Messi says that striker Gonzalo Higuain should be picked for Argentina's World Cup squad.

Higuain lost his place to Inter Milan's Mauro Icardi and Boca Juniors' Dario Benedetto for Argentina's final matches in the South American World Cup qualifiers under coach Jorge Sampaoli.

AP
Argentine soccer legend Diego Maradona takes part at the 2018 soccer World Cup draw in the Kremlin in Moscow, Friday, Dec. 1, 2017.

In an interview with local channel TyC Sports, broadcast on Wednesday, Messi describes Higuain as "a fundamental player, he needs to be there."

Argentina's five-time world player of the year adds that Higuain "is one of the best number 9s in the world, he shows it every weekend at Juventus."

Higuain was a starter for Argentina in the World Cup final against Germany in Brazil 2014 and in the finals of the Copa America in 2015 and 2016.

Last two slots left for MGA Ace

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Only the November and December Ace of the Month slots are left before the Marianas Golf Association hold its yearend tournament.

The November Ace will be held tomorrow at the Marianas Country Club with a 9am showtime while tee off is one hour later. The December Ace is tentatively set in the first Saturday or Sunday of January 2018.

The November and December monthly aces were a bit delayed due to a number of tournaments—including the inaugural Marianas International Cup and the Club Lao Championship—held from October to November

James Benavente earned a spot to the year-ending MGA tournament after winning the October Ace held last Oct. 7 at the challenging east course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. He was also the closest to the pin winner at No. 6, while Ned Norita duplicated the feat at Nos. 4 and 15, and Shine Tenorio clinched the award at No. 11.

Benavente earned the October Ace since Gerald Guerrero had already qualified after winning the May Ace. Benavente and Guerrero will join Dung Tenorio (January), Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho (February), Jessica Sonoda (March), J.J. Atalig (April), Calvin Yamagishi (June), Jason Sablan (July), Norita (August), and Rob Davis (September) in the club championship.

Yamagishi placed second to Guerrero in the double Ace (May and June) to earn a spot in MGA's season-ending tournament, while Norita got the August Ace after finishing runner-up to Sablan (July) in another two-in-one tournament for July and August.

Meanwhile, MGA is still accepting members who love and have a passion for playing golf regularly aside from making new friends. MGA was founded in 2013 and is open to anyone regardless of golf skill level. Handicaps are used in each monthly tournament for fairness and equality among the members.

For more information on how to become an MGA member, visit the MGA Facebook page or get in touch with tournament director Yamagishi at 287-8894.

PH

From Page 31

"I managed to put some distance in the final four kilometers but [Lomotos] tried to catch me in the final two kilometers. So I gave it my all to win the title," said Galedo. "I'll be back next year, I have to defend my title."

"After the Bird Island Lookout, I checked the other riders in the lead group and I saw that no one was making any move. So, I went ahead and made my move. Slowly I gained some distance from them," added the 32-year-old rider, who was given the congratulatory toss to the Mariana Resort & Spa pool after his win.

Morales also vowed to be back for the 12th edition of the race. "I have to reclaim my title."

Even Lomotos, who was ahead of the pack heading down to the Bird Island Lookout before losing the lead to Galedo, said he'll be returning after enjoying the challenging climbs and downhill rides of the course. Galedo caught up and overtook Lomotos on the steep climb out of Grotto.

Carino, meanwhile, said he is hoping his brother El Joshua could race with him next year. El Joshua was originally scheduled to join the seven-member Philippine delegation to Saipan, but encountered some problems with his travel documents, missing the chance of taking on the lung-busting race.

"Too bad my brother missed this. He would have also loved this race," Carino said, adding that he chose to ride safe to avoid any crashes in his debut here. "It was fine for me to chase the leaders rather than suffer any crash. The road was a bit slippery so it's better for me to finish the race without any wounds. For sure I'll be back next year."

SPLIT

From Page 32

mark, failing to make a followup on its 1-0 debut win against WSR.

WSR missed on its bid for back-to-back victories after a 2-2 draw against Koblerville at the former's home field last Tuesday. Rizza Relucio and Ana tallied the two goals for WSR in the first half, while Koblerville drew one from Rosie Saralu in the opening frame. Andrielle Coloma made the equalizer for Koblervile in the second half.

In the boys division, WSR topped Koblerville, 4-1. The Kingfishers broke away in the second half, firing three goals, while the Umangs also got their lone goal in the match in the final period.

Meanwhile, Garapan crushed Kagman Elementary School, 11-0. Garapan was off to the races in the first half after knocking in eight goals before slowing down a bit in the second, while Kagman failed to counter to absorb its second straight loss.

Kagman was hoping to gain its first victory yesterday as it was scheduled to challenge Mt. Carmel at the Chacha Middle School Field. Two more matches in the boys division were played yesterday with Koblerville battling GTC at the KES pitch and WSR hosting Garapan. In the girls division, it was also Koblerville vs GTC at the former's turf, while Mt. Carmel dueled Kagman.

NMI

From Page 32

athletics teams.

"We'll see what these guys have when we reach Vanuatu. They've been working hard for this tournament and hopefully we could at least advance in the next round. From there, we'll see what happens next," he added.

From Saipan, the second batch of the CNMI delegation, was set to arrive yesterday evening in Guam where they will be taking a connecting flight to Manila. The Commonwealth's athletes and officials will then board a plane to Australia on Saturday and from Sydney, they will take a flight to Vanuatu where they are expected to arrive this Sunday.

Meanwhile, athletics competition will be held from Dec. 11 to 14 with Ngirchongor competing in the men's 200m and 400m runs and Sapong and Pangelinan joining the women's 100m and 200m races.

SAN NICOLAS

From Page 32

Downes, who missed his first attempt in the snatch, but rebounded by blearing 108 and 111 kgs to secure the bronze. The Aussie also ended up with a 251-kg total after a 140-kg lift in the clean and jerk. Downes earned the overall bronze as he was the first lifter to reach 251 kgs based on the results in the snatch.

With his bronze medal finish, San Nicolas said he is proud to give honor to the CNMI.

"It was not easy and I really had to fight for it. But it was really worth it," he said.

The Mini Games bronze was also San Nicolas' first major medal in the quadrennial meet. He previously won a silver medal in the 2015 Micronesia Weightlifting Invitational in Guam. San Nicolas' podium finish somehow eased the pain of Ray Santos' failed attempt to get a medal in the men's senior 62-kg division last Monday.

In other results, Papua New Guinea ruled the three-day weightlifting competition, winning 14 gold and four silver medals. Fiji was second with a 9-5-10 gold-silver-bronze haul, while Samoa was ranked third after going home with eight gold and six silver medals.

With its domination in the weightlifting contest, PNG is also ahead in the overall medal standings with its 14-1-4 tally. Samoa is at second with 13-9-4, followed by Fiji (11-6-11), New Caledonia (10-7-4), and the Solomon Islands (4-3-1). Host Vanuatu is at No. 9 with two gold, two silver, and four bronze medals.

SWIM

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shared their thoughts about the tournament and the Eagles' domination in last month's meet.

"It is always enjoyable and also fun seeing young stars putting their talents to a show. I thank GCA for not only achieving academic and spiritual growth but also enabling their talent development," said Elizabeth Metz, whose son Joel joined the meet for the first time.

"I'm so proud of all the GCA swimmers and their great team work," said Kyungah Thompson, whose daughters Jinie and Jinju gave the Eagles several first place finishes in the middle and high school races.

For her part, Poppinga has all praises for their students.

"Thank you for giving your best! I am so proud of you and loved every second of being your coach," the teacher-coach said.

Sixth grader Nieves Villagomez saw the meet as an opportunity to bond with their classmates.

"It was great to hang out with my classmates out of school and the swim meet was intense and interesting," she said.

Another sixth grader and one of GCA's top swimmers—Ashley Dangol—loved to see GCA field a big team in the meet.

"The swim meet was one of the most enjoyable meet I have joined. We were a big team. The team spirit was exciting. It was great to see new people and work as one," Dangol said.

Okadaya gets last semis berth in M-League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Okadaya was awarded the fourth and last semis ticket in Division A as M-League officials ruled out that Sun Palace forfeited its playoff match against the former after walking out of last Sunday's game at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Sun Palace decided not to play the remaining nine minutes of its duel against Okadaya in protest of a red card charged to Jihu Jin, who was also called for an infraction in a previous play. It was a bad decision for Sun Palace as it was ahead in the make-or-break match, 2-0. Jun Sik Kim scored the first goal for Sun Palace in the 16th minute, while Feng Chung Jin hit the board in the 55th minute.

The team put the results of the game under protest, but M-League officials stood by the earlier decision of the head referee citing league rules on walkouts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Okadaya goalie Shunsuke Katagiri kicks the ball during an earlier regular season game against Sun Palace in the Division A of the M-League at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Rule 9 on team no show/forfeiting games states that "if a team walks off the field prior to the end of the match or prior to the referee calling a match, the team leaving the field will be assessed a forfeit (0-3) loss and all penalties associated with the forfeit: all players leaving the pitch will receive yellow cards, these will combine with any other cards accumulated during the match and will count toward yellow card accumulation and the team will be fined $100, which must be paid prior to the following match."

With Okadaya getting the free pass to the semifinals, it will now face regular season top finisher and undefeated TanHoldings in the battle for the first finals berth on Dec. 17 at 12pm. The Teen Ayuyus and Kanoa will collide for the other finals ticket, also on Dec. 17, at 3pm. Winners of the semis games will square off for the Division A championship on Dec. 23.

TanHoldings and the Teen Ayuyus gained outright semis slots after a Top 2 finish in the elimination, while Kanoa bagged the third Final Four spot following a 3-0 victory over Paire last Sunday.

Meanwhile, in the Division B finals, undefeated Matansa will face Korean Football Association on Saipan this Sunday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

KFAS took the first finals seat after nosing out Shirley's FC, 4-3, while Matansa advanced to this weekend's title game following a 9-2 demolition of the CNMI Women's National Team, 9-2.

PH pro bikers eye return to 'Hell'

JON PEREZ
Race coordinators Ricky Castro, partly hidden left, and Jay Diyco together with Nap Dizon push Mark Galedo to the Mariana Resort & Spa pool after the Filipino rider won the 11th Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race last Saturday .

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Expect next year's Hell of the Marianas to be even tougher after four Filipino riders that finished in the Top 5 in last Saturday's event vowed to be back for the 12th edition of Micronesia's toughest race.

Mark John Lexer Galedo ruled this year's race, beating compatriot Ronald Lomotos and dethroning 2016 champion Jan Paul Morales. Daniel Ven Carino came in at fourth with perennial participant Aleksandr Dorovskikh rounding out the Top 5 finishers. Galedo completed the race, which was 15 kilometers longer than the usual course, in 3:15:51, while Lomotos was just four seconds behind (3:15:55). Morales was almost dislodged at third (3:21:32) with Carino coming in two seconds later (3:21:32). Dorovskikh clocked in at 3:24:14 to round out the Top 5, while Bryan Wong was the top Hong Kong rider at sixth place after registering 3:24:52.

Galedo, the 2014 Le Tour de Filipinas overall champion, said he'll be ready to return next year to defend his title and put his name again on the perpetual trophy to join other two-time winners John Anderson of Australia and former Saipan resident Eli Torgeson.

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Swim meet champ GCA receives 3 plaques

Grace Christian Academy received three plaques from Saipan Swim Club for reigning supreme in the 2017 SSC All Schools Swim Meet held late last month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

The plaques were handed over to GCA principal Ben Ann Nunez and vice principal Susan Pajarillaga last Wednesday, as the Eagles ruled the elementary, middle school, and high school divisions of the SSC-organized meet.

The sweep was a first for any school competing in the meet and GCA could not be prouder with its students' achievement.

"We congratulate all the GCA Eagles for doing such an amazing job. The All Schools meet is a wonderful opportunity for private and public school students to interact and have some friendly competition. We are grateful to the Saipan Swim Club that sponsored and organized this event. Finally, a big thank you to Mr. Nelson Pagaduan, our parent coach, and to Ms. Courtney Poppinga, our teacher-coach," Nunez said.

GCA swimmers, their supportive parents, and teachers also

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Grace Christian Academy students, their parents, and teachers pose for a photo during the opening ceremony of the 2017 Saipan Swim Club All Schools Swim Meet held late last month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Grace Christian Academy principal Beth Ann Nunez, right, and vice principal Susan Pajarillaga show the plaque the Eagles received from Saipan Swim Club for dominating the 2017 SSC All Schools Swim Meet held late last month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Mariners, Angels each get $1M for Ohtani from Twins

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Irving, short-handed Celtics top Mavericks

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San Nicolas earns bronze in Mini Games

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Angel San Nicolas proudly wears his bronze medal after placing third in the men's 92-kg division of the weightlifting competition in the 10th Pacific Mini Games yesterday in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Angel San Nicolas will bring home a bronze medal as the CNMI weightlifter earned a podium finish in the 10th Pacific Mini Games yesterday at the Epauto Adventist High School in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

This is Team CNMI's first Pacific Games medal since winning the baseball gold in the 2011 edition in Noumea, New Caledonia.

San Nicolas, after clearing 135 kilograms in the clean and jerk, made the grade following a successful 141-kg lift in the men's 94-kg division. He failed in his final attempt in the clean and jerk, missing a second bronze medal in the snatch by just 1 kg. He had lifts of 103, 105, and 110 kgs in his three attempts in the snatch with the last one added to his clean and jerk record for a 251-kg total.

The Commonwealth bet was nosed out by Australian John Henry

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Tough schedule for NMI 3x3 team

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI men's 3x3 basketball and athletics teams pose for a group photo before leaving Saipan yesterday to compete in the 10th Pacific Mini Games in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The CNMI's 3x3 men's basketball team will be put into an early test in the 11th Pacific Mini Games when competitions begin on Dec. 11 at the Korman Stadium's Indoor Hall 2 in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Team CNMI will face early gold medal favorite Fiji for its first game at 12pm on Dec. 11 then will take on another powerhouse squad in Papua New Guinea at 2pm before closing out the day against American Samoa. The team, which is composed of Dan Barcinas, Preston Basa, Jack Lizama, and Douglas Schmidt, will go up against Nauru, hosts Vanuatu, and Samoa in Day 2 before closing out its campaign against the Cook Islands and the Solomon Islands. The nine countries competing in the men's 3x3 basketball will play in a single elimination round from Dec. 11 to 13, while the finals is set on Dec. 14. The format in the medal round has yet to be announced.

The four basketball players left for Vanuatu yesterday, traveling together with the three-member CNMI athletics squad composed of Beo Ngirchongor, Zarinae Sapong, and Jamie Pangelinan, and coaches Ron Olopai and Elias Rangamar—who is also the 3x3 team's manager.

Rangamar said getting a win against any of the powerhouse teams—Fiji, PNG, and American Samoa—would definitely boost Team CNMI's confidence in their hopes of going further in the tournament.

"At least beat one or two of the top teams to give us a better chance of going into the next round. It will be tough and we're going to squeeze in some practice sessions in our layovers before we reach Port Vila," Rangamar told *Saipan Tribune* before boarding a Cape Air flight to Guam with the 3x3 men's basketball and

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Split for GTC, MCS; KES draws WSR

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mount Carmel School and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School split their matches, while Koblerville Elementary School and William S. Reyes Elementary School had a standoff as action in the 2017 NMIFA Fall U11 Interscholastic Soccer League continued last Tuesday.

GTC won its girls division game against Mt. Carmel at the Hopwood Middle School Field, 1-0, thanks to Pia Ngewakl's shot in the second half.

The Knights then foiled GTC's bid for a sweep after escaping with a similar 1-0 triumph. Leland Deleon Guerrero scored the goal for Mt. Carmel, giving his team its first win this season after settling for a scoreless draw against Garapan Elementary School last Monday.

GTC also got its first victory in the girls division, bouncing back from a 1-2 loss to WSR during the league's opening day last week. In the boys division, GTC dropped to a 1-0-1 win-draw-loss

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Koblerville Elementary School's Megan Elayda, left, tries to dribble past a Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School defender during the second half of their game in the 2017 NMIFA Fall U11 Interscholastic Soccer League yesterday at the KES pitch.